CUC hires 3 for key positions. PAGE 2
NMC faculty to discuss indigenous rights at history conference. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 171

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY AUGUST 29, 2023 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

High court affirms casino license's suspension but...

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed the suspension of Imperial Pacific International LLC's exclusive casino license.

The high court's decision, issued on Aug. 25, reverses the Superior Court in part, and orders the Commonwealth Casino Commission to hold further proceedings to determine new deadlines for some of IPI's missed payments.

See CASINO on Page 4

» CCC directed to hold proceedings to determine new deadlines for IPI's missed payments

EXIT MEETING OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Maggie Sablan attended yesterday's Cabinet meeting at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capitol Hill. During the meeting, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios thanked Sablan for her service and her contributions to DCCA and to the community. Frank Rabauliman has been appointed as acting DCCA secretary.

Fukushima residents cautious after release of treated wastewater starts

A staff of Mothers' Radiation Lab Fukushima, known as a citizens' testing center Tarachine, tests sample seawater taken near the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant with a liquid scintillation analyzer in Iwaki, Fukushima prefecture, northeastern Japan on Friday, Aug. 25, 2023. AP

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

IWAKI, Japan (AP)—Fish auction prices at a port south of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant were mixed amid uncertainty over how seafood consumers will respond to the release of treated and diluted radioactive wastewater into the ocean.

See FUKUSHIMA on Page 4

'Can we stomach further cuts in hours?'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At this point, Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) does not think they can go below $115 million in the fiscal year 2024 budget as this would mean further cuts in hours of government employees across the board.

"I think the question that we need to ask each of our-

See CUTS on Page 4

Convicted murderer faces parole revocation

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole is set to hold revocation proceedings for convicted murderer and parolee Edward Blas who was recently arrested for threatening others at knifepoint.

The CNMI Board of Parole is set to hold parole hearings all week starting this Wednesday and will also hold revocation proceedings for Blas who was arrested less than a year after he was granted parole.

In addition, the Board of Parole will also be holding

See MURDERER on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

32

INSIDE

BUSINESS
A program created to keep broadband costs down for low-income households will expire next year.
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NATION
Hundreds of people gather at prayer vigils and in church to mourn yet another racist attack.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
When the camera shutter blinked inside an Atlanta jail, it documented an inflection point in American life.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

In her report at a recent Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board meeting, acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje, extreme right, talks about, among other things, the hiring of three personnel for key positions.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CUC hires 3 for key posts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has filled up the position of deputy executive director for Water/Wastewater Division, a position that has been vacant after the resignation of Chretien T. Voerg last June 2.

Acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje also disclosed at a recent CUC board meeting that they also recently hired two personnel for key positions—a Training and Development coordinator and a Wastewater Treatment Plant supervisor.

Terlaje said that Kevin Watson, who is the former Drinking Water and Wastewater Division manager, is now the deputy executive director for that division effective last July 17.

Voerg resigned from his positions as acting CUC executive director and as deputy executive director for the Water/Wastewater Division last April 26.

Terlaje told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they are recruiting now for a Water/Wastewater Division manager.

Terlajesaid the newly hired Training and Development coordinator is now working with the Human Resources Department and managers, and that the coordinator has begun planning and scheduling numerous training and development programs for CUC employees.

Terlaje said they've also hired Carson Madrangchar as a Wastewater Treatment Plant supervisor and that he is going to come on board at the end of the month.

She said Madrangchar comes from Guam and was working for the military base there as a sewage contractor.

Terlaje said Madrangchar will be filling one of the stipulated order positions that has been vacant since 2019.

"So [the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency] is happy about that. He is excited," Terlaje said.

Cabrera, Ayuyu confirmed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The full Senate confirmed on Thursday the appointment of Antonio B. Cabrera and Vina Claire Saures Ayuyu to serve as members of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors and Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board of directors, respectively.

Babauta

All seven senators present at a Senate special session voted "yes" to adopt the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee's report that recommended the confirmation of their appointments. Sens. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Dennis James C. Mendiola (R-Rota) were absent but excused from the session.

Cabrera will represent Saipan and Northern Islands on the CPA board. He will serve the remaining term of Roman Tudela, which will expire on Oct. 7, 2023. He will serve a subsequent four-year term, which will expire on Oct. 7, 2027.

Ayuyu on the other hand, will represent Saipan, the Northern Islands, and the Carolinian community on the NMHC board. She will serve the remainder of a four-year term, which will expire on May 6, 2027.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios appointed Cabrera last May 26 and Ayuyu last June 2.

EAGI Committee chair Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said the committee has no doubts that Cabrera is uniquely qualified and will serve the ports agency with reliable and effective policy decisions.

With respect to Ayuyu, Babauta said the committee finds the nominee meets the qualifications beyond educational professional standards. The chair said Ayuyu articulately responded to all of their questions and was prepared when she presented herself before the committee at the hearing.

Thank You
On behalf of our CNMI children, their parents and families, DCCA-CCDF Program would like to thank its Community Partners for their continuous partnership and collaboration, most especially for their work with the Science of Early Learning Initiative-CNMI Brain Builders projects and events!
CNMI Family 2 Family Health Information Center
CHCC, Family 2 Family Health Information Center
Early Intervention Services
CHCC - System of Care & Healthy Transitions
Division of Youth Services
Joeten Kiyu Public Library
Healthy Families CNMI
CHCC, H.O.M.E. Visiting Program
CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities
CNMI University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
CHCC, MICAH
WIC CNMI
CHCC, CNMI WIC
DICE PACIFIC
DICE Pacific Professional Solutions, LLC
Evergreen Learning Inc.
Child Care Development Fund Program
BRAIN CNMI BUILDERS

Public warned of high surf, rip currents

A high surf advisory in effect until 6am Saturday along south and west facing reefs. The public is also being warned of a high risk of rip currents through late Friday night along south and west facing reefs of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet are present in south and west facing reefs of the Marianas until Saturday at 6am.

This will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Surf will remain near these levels through Tuesday night, then build further on Wednesday.

Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

The public is advised to stay out of the waters along south and west facing reefs. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

Warning out against sailing

A small craft advisory is in effect until 6am Saturday affecting Guam and Rota coastal waters.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, southwest to west winds of 15 to 25 knots, with scattered gusts of up to 30 knots, are possible through Tuesday afternoon, before gradually diminishing. Seas of 7 to 10 feet will persist through Tuesday night, then they may build by a foot or two for Wednesday along Saipan and Tinian coastal waters.

A developing monsoon pattern will continue to strengthen over the next day or two. Strongest winds will be over the southeastern waters. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are advised to avoid boating in these hazardous conditions. ***(PR)***

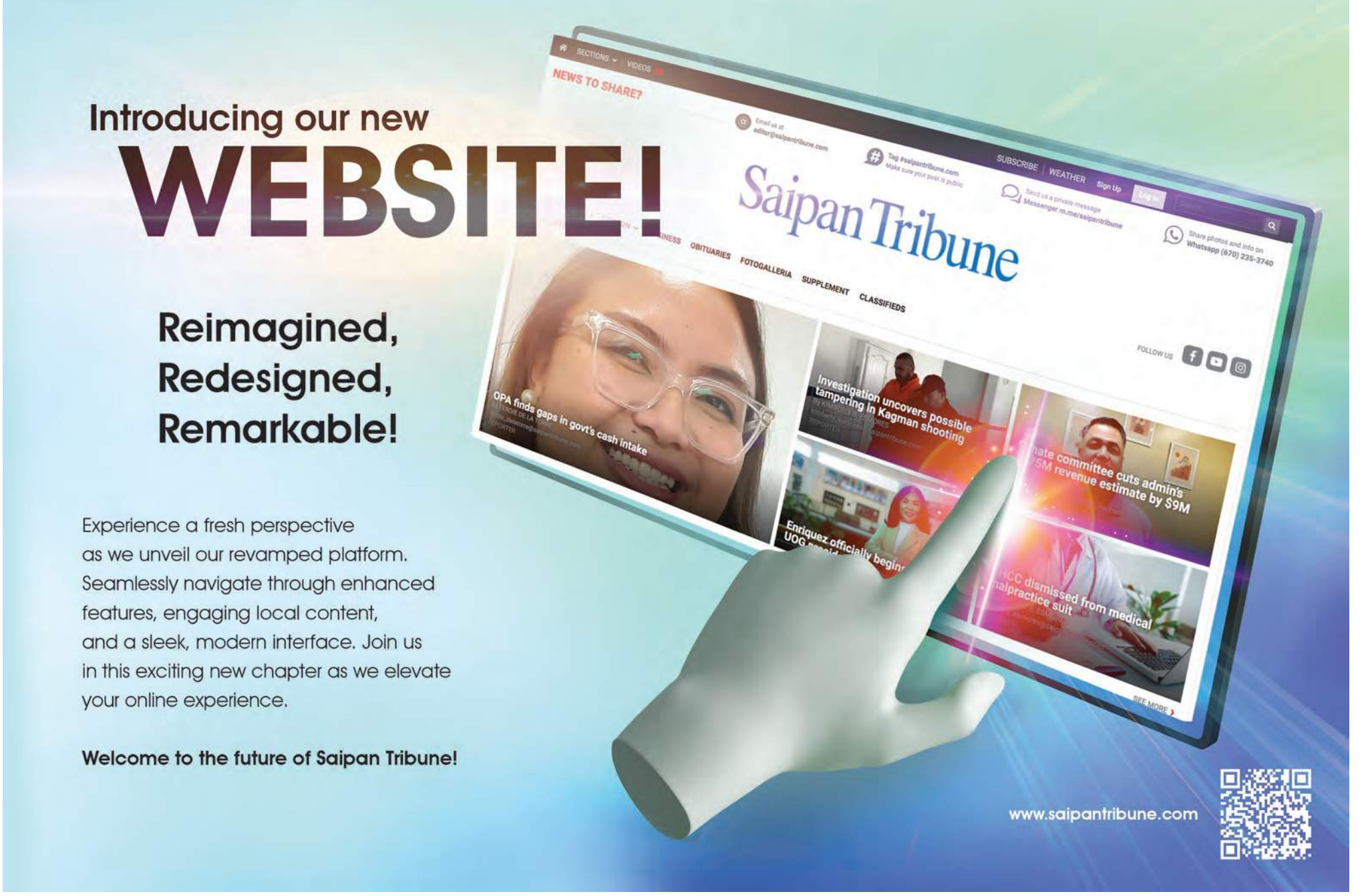
Public warned of gusty winds

A wind advisory is in effect until 6pm today, Tuesday, affecting all of the Mariana Islands. This means that sustained winds of 30 mph or gusts to 40 mph are expected.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, sustained winds of 30 mph, with gusts of up to 40 mph, are to be expected, mainly during the afternoon hours and for locations in higher terrain. Additionally, these stronger winds may also occur frequently with the heavier showers and thunderstorms.

The public is being warned of the potential for minor nuisance level wind damage.

The public is being advised to use extra caution when driving, especially if operating a high-profile vehicle. Secure outdoor objects. ***(PR)***



SCC September meeting to highlight ongoing projects

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly general membership meeting on Wednesday, Sept, 6, 2023, at the Queens Hall of the Kensington Hotel Saipan, from 11:30am. to 1:30pm. This event will provide valuable insights through guest speakers and updates on important community projects.

During the meeting, Chamber committees will provide updates on their activities and progress, highlighting contributions the Chamber conducts for the benefit of the business community. Attendees will have the opportunity to stay informed about the Chamber's ongoing projects and engage with committee representatives to learn more about their respective focuses.

In addition to the Chamber committee updates, Susan Satur, executive director of the Center of Living Independently, will talk about CLI's programs, services, and the challenges faced by the disability community.

Department of Public Works Secretary Ray Yumul will also provide updates on the current Beach Road Improvement Project, which holds significance for the local community.

Mariano Iglecias, senior civil engineer from the Office of Planning & Development, will discuss the progress of the Garapan Revitalization Project, aiming to enhance the heart of the community.

The registration fee for Chamber members is $25, while future Chamber members are welcome to attend for a fee of $35. This fee covers attendance, networking opportunities, access to presentations, and a delicious lunch.

For more information and to RSVP for the September general membership meeting, visit the Saipan Chamber of Commerce website at www.saipanchamber.com or contact the Chamber directly at (670) 234-7150 or email contactus@saipanchamber.org. ***(PR)***

FUKUSHIMA

From page 1

The plant, which was damaged in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, began sending the treated water into the Pacific on Thursday despite protests at home and in nearby countries that are adding political and diplomatic pressures to the economic worries.

Hideaki Igari, a middleman at the Numanouchi fishing port, said the price of larger flounder, Fukushima's signature fish known as Joban-mono, was more than 10% lower at the Friday morning auction, the first since the water release began. Prices of some average-size flounder rose, but presumably due to a limited catch, says Igari. Others fell.

It was a relatively calm market reaction to the water release. But, Igari said, "we still have to see how it goes next week."

The decadeslong release has been strongly opposed by fishing groups and criticized by neighboring countries. China immediately banned imports of seafood from Japan in response, adding to worries in the fisheries community and related businesses.

In Seoul on Saturday, thousands of South Koreans took to the streets to condemn the release of wastewater and to criticize the South Korean government for endorsing the plan. The protesters called on Japan to store radioactive water in tanks instead of releasing it into the Pacific Ocean.

A citizens' radiation testing center in Japan said it's getting inquiries and expects more people might bring in food, water and other samples as radiation data is now a key barometer for what to eat.

Japanese fishing groups fear the release will do more harm to the reputation of seafood from the Fukushima area. They are still striving to repair the damage to their businesses from the meltdown at the power plant after the earthquake and tsunami.

"We now have this water after all these years of struggle when the fish market price is finally becoming stable," Igari said after Friday's auction. "Fisheries people fear that prices of the fish they catch for their living may crash again, and worry about their future living."

The Japanese government and the plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, say the water must be released to make way for the facility's decommissioning and to prevent accidental leaks of insufficiently treated water. Much of tank-held water still contains radioactive materials exceeding releasable levels.

Some wastewater at the plant is recycled as coolant after treatment, and the rest is stored in around 1,000 tanks, which are filled to 98% of their 1.37 million-ton capacity. The tanks cover much of the complex and must be cleared out to make room for new facilities needed for the decommissioning process, officials say.

Authorities say the wastewater after treatment and dilution is safer than international standards require, and that its environmental impact will be negligible. On Friday, the first seawater samples collected after the release were significantly below the legally releasable levels, the power company said.

But, having suffered a series of accidental and intended releases of contaminated water from the plant early in the disaster, hard feelings and distrust of the government and TEPCO run deep in Fukushima—especially in the fishing community.

TEPCO says the release will take 30 years, or until the end of the plant decommissioning. People fear that could mean a tough future for youths in the fishing town, where many businesses are family-run.

KOREA OUTREACH OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

As part of efforts to strengthen and expand the administration's partnership with South Korea, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang recently met with Lee Seo Young, the Korean consul general stationed in Hawaii, and In Kook Kim, the head of the Korean Consulate in Guam. They were joined by Kim Bo Chyul, Korean consular assistant, stationed in the CNMI, and Kyoung-chyan Joo, consul of the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Guam (both not in photo). During the meeting, Young and Kim expressed their gratitude toward Palacios and Apatang for their unwavering support for the local Korean community on Saipan. Together, they explored strategies aimed at fortifying support for the Korean business sector and promoting Korean tourism within the CNMI.

MURDERER

From page 1

pardon proceedings for Jodan Taitingfong, man who was sentenced to 15-years imprisonment for robbery and aggravated assault and battery.

Aside from Blas and Taitingfong, the other inmates who are up for parole hearings are Kui Zhang, Calistro Crisostimo, Bradley Defang, Titomir Bhuiyan, Derik Reyes, and Randy Igisomar.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the court previously imposed a $50,000 cash bail on Blas on two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and three counts of disturbing the peace.

The complaint against Blas stated that back in November 2022, he threatened to kill two people with a kitchen knife while intoxicated and he also punched his girlfriend.

The girlfriend told police that Blas was mad because he could not find his slippers and that he stabbed a plastic table in anger.

Before being paroled, Blas was serving a 24-year prison sentence after he pleaded guilty to murder in the first degree, which he committed during the perpetration of burglary and/or robbery.

Blas was convicted back in 2011 of murder in the first degree after pleading guilty to the brutal killing of a Marianas High School security guard with two others as part of a plan to rob the school.

He became eligible for parole after serving one-third of his sentence.

Blas, who was 16 at that time of the incident, was charged as an adult with two other teen co-defendants in 2009.

CASINO

From page 1

The CCC suspended IPI's casino license in April 2021 after finding that IPI failed to make required payments and violated several other conditions of its license. After IPI challenged the agency's decision, the Superior Court upheld its suspension.

In its opinion, the Supreme Court found that CCC made several errors, including a failure to apply an amendment to IPI's license agreement, which gave it until 2025 to complete required Community Benefit Fund contributions.

The Casino Commission also overlooked IPI's argument that the COVID-19 pandemic was a "force majeure" event. The high court wrote, "CCC's imposition of penalties…was improper because the force majeure clause protects IPI from the consequences of default."

Under the Casino Licensing Agreement between IPI and the Commonwealth, IPI's missed annual license fee payments remain due, but the Casino Commission must give IPI additional time to make those payments.

Lastly, the Supreme Court affirmed the fines and the suspension of IPI's license that the Casino Commission imposed for failing to pay the casino regulatory fee and accounts payable over 89 days old, as well as IPI's failure to maintain required cash or cash equivalents in a CNMI or U.S. bank. These violations carry a total penalty of $5 million in fines, and IPI's license remains suspended until it complies with the Casino Commission's order. ***(PR)***

CUTS

From page 1

selves is, can we stomach further reduction in hours across the board?" asked Manglona during the continuation of the bicameral conference committee meeting yesterday.

The conference committee, which was still in a meeting as of press time last night, had been stalled over the final number over how much next fiscal year's budget is going to be and they were hoping to get updated numbers on the Hotel Occupancy Tax in order to come to an agreeable number.

Last Friday, the committee agreed to set for the meantime the total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2024 at $163.4 million and not $172.5 million as the Palacios-Apatang administration had proposed in its budget submission.

The Senate's version of the concurrent resolution decreased the total earmarks from $57.1 million in the House version to $48 million. This brought to $115.4 million the net local revenue and resources available for appropriations, which is the same amount in the House's version.

The committee resumed their meeting yesterday, hoping that by then they have a document from the administration recalculating the HOT. The committee's meeting was delayed yesterday as members waited for the HOT document from the administration.

With the current proposal that the House had submitted, they're already prepared for a reduction in the Judiciary and Legislature in order to address all areas, including Tinian, Manglona said.

Manglona said any further reduction in the $115 million net will result in further reduction in hours across the board.

"Just to recap from last week, if we go down to $106 million, we're looking at 22 hours decrease across all branches. So that's something that again, we have to ask ourselves at the end of the day," he said.

Senate legal counsel Joe Bermudes said the only way to maintain $115 million is to collapse some of the earmarks.

"Mathematically, that's the only way," Bermudes said.

At 1:32pm yesterday, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) said they're still waiting for some recalculation of the HOT and documentation. He said as they still have not received any information from the administration, they would be on recess to 3:30pm that same day.

At 3:30pm, Yumul announced that they haven't received anything from the administration and that leaves them with no choice but to continue the meeting.

Manglona said that, in looking at the projections, in terms of visitors arrival, it looks like what was proposed last year was basically mirrored for next fiscal year. He said that, according to projections by the Marianas Visitors Authority, they are expecting to bring in tourists close to double what they brought in the first and second quarters.

Manglona chairs the Senate conference committee, while Yumul chairs the House of Representatives conference committee. The conference committee was formed to come out with a mutually agreed figure in the proposed budget's ceiling.

NMC faculty to discuss indigenous rights at history conference

Northern Marianas College associate professors William Fife and Beylul Solomon will be presenting their recent University of Southern California law journal publication, "Indigenous Rights: A Pathway to End American Second-Class Citizenship" at the upcoming Marianas History Conference on Sept. 1-3, 2023, on Saipan.

Registration information for the event can be found on https://www.uog.edu/mhc2023/index.php. The first 50 students from the CNMI register for free.

The 6th Marianas History Conference theme is "Healing the Wounds of History." The conference was last held in 2021, with over 600 participants representing 12 countries.

At the conference, Fife and Solomon will discuss how over 500 years of global genocidal colonialism was Vatican-authorized through the active international law known as the "Doctrine of Discovery," which continues to oppress indigenous peoples in America through what they refer to as the "Discovery Cases."

Fife and Solomon coined the novel concept of the "Discovery Cases"—a collective group of racist U.S. Supreme

Fife

Solomon

Court rulings that incorporate the Doctrine of Discovery into active American case law, beginning with 1823's Johnson v. M'Intosh and its progeny, which include the "Insular Cases." The "Discovery Cases" continue to dispossess indigenous peoples of their sacred lands, and enshrine second-class citizenship for Americans residing in U.S. territories.

Fife and Solomon propose implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through local and national legislation, which could provide a pathway to overturn the "Discovery Cases" and enable greater self-determination in U.S. territories, thereby ending American second-class citizenship and ensuring the cultural survival of indigenous peoples.

Fife and Solomon collaborated on two publications that utilize indigenous rights to address "healing the wounds of history" in the Marianas. "Indigenous Rights: A Pathway to End American Second-Class Citizenship" covers regional, national, and international legal and political issues in USC's Review of Law and Social Justice. Their first collaboration, "Indigenous Rights: A Vehicle to Address Mental Health and Academic Outcomes in the CNMI," discussed how to improve local disparities in the textbook, Learning and Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education in Oceania. Both publications focus on the importance of cultural identity to heal the ongoing legacies of systemic racism and intergenerational trauma.

Solomon won the Northern Marianas Humanities Council 2022 Governor's Award for Research and Publication as lead author of "Indigenous Rights: A Vehicle to Address Mental Health and Academic Outcomes in the CNMI." Fife presented "Indigenous Rights: A Pathway to End American Second-Class Citizenship" at a recent USC law school symposium, and the article was also featured in "Race, Racism, and the Law," which is hosted by Dayton University of Law professor emerita Vernellia R. Randall.

Fife received his J.D. in 2013. He worked as a legal aid attorney with Micronesian Legal Services Corporation and as a teacher at Kagman High School before joining NMC as an associate professor in the Social Sciences and Fine Arts Department.

Solomon received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology in 2009 and is currently an associate professor at NMC's School of Education.

To register for the conference, visit https://www.uog.edu/mhc2023/index.php. ***(PR)***

Drug smuggler sentenced to 5 years

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has imposed a 64-month sentence on a man who recently pleaded guilty to smuggling 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine into the CNMI through the U.S Postal Service.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed yesterday a 64-month prison sentence—a little over five years—on Zhang Yuzhu. with credit for time served.

Following his release from prison, Zhang will be placed on probation for three years.

In addition to his supervised release, Manglona also ordered Zhang perform 100 hours of community service in lieu of a fine and at the direction of the U.S. Probation Office.

After the hearing, Zhang was remanded to U.S Marshals Service custody.

Zhang was initially charged with importation of contraband, trafficking of a controlled substance, and illegal possession of a controlled substance. He pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance as part of a plea deal.

The same charges were filed against Zhang with the Superior Court, which later dismissed the local case at the behest of the Office of the Attorney General.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, Zhang allegedly attempted to smuggle 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine from California through the U.S. Postal Service. The seized contraband has a street value of approximately $700,000.

The "ice" was discovered on March 19 during a Customs routine inspection of a large parcel addressed to Zhang. Inside the parcel, Customs officer Franklin Sablan saw three wooden cases containing chinaware. Upon further inspection of the cases, Sablan noticed a square object wrapped in duct tape under the chinaware inside the wooden case. While examining the square object, the officer noticed white crystalline substance spilling into the wooden case.

After procuring the parcel and its contents as evidence, the items were transported to the Customs office at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for processing and testing, where it turned out positive for methamphetamine.

$25K bail for man accused of assault

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $25,000 cash bail on a man who is accused of assault after he allegedly deliberately caused several car collisions at a Dan Dan residence over betel nut.

During a bail hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a $25,000 cash bail on Jake Rabauliman, 21, who is facing charges of assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, tampering with vehicle, and disturbing the peace.

After the hearing, Bogdan remanded Rabauliman back to Department of Corrections custody and ordered him to return to court on Sept. 6 for a preliminary hearing. Meanwhile the defendant's arraignment is set for Sept. 25 at 9am.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety responded at around 12:35pm on Aug. 26 to disturbance call at a Dan Dan residence.

At the scene, police spoke with the female caller, who said that her cousin, Rabauliman, was at her residence to pick betel nut, but she asked him to leave because she had filed a pending theft case against him.

She said that Rabauliman got aggressive because of this and began yelling at her husband.

The woman and her elderly mother tried to get Rabauliman to leave, but instead of leaving, the defendant allegedly got a bolt cutter out of his car and began hitting her car.

After inflicting some damage, Rabauliman left. However, a few minutes later, Rabauliman returned and used his car to drive into both her and her husband's cars, causing more damage. The victim said it was at this time that she decided to call for police assistance.

She said she managed to get into one of the cars in an attempt to block Rabauliman's way so he wouldn't be able to leave, but he still managed to flee the scene before police arrived.

The female victim said she was further traumatized because, at one point, Rabauliman allegedly got out of his vehicle and repeatedly punched her driver's side window while she was in the car.

Police managed to locate Rabauliman and his vehicle that same day and, after the victim positively identified him, police arrested him and booked him at the Department of Corrections.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 • Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp •Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE
08/29/2023

Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Emergency Solution Grants

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
IDIS# 747	HESG	PY2021 HESG21 HMIS		$8,000.00	($7,335.00)	$665.00	$8,000.00
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			($7,335.00)		
IDIS# 740	HESG	PY2021 HESG21 Rapid Rehousing NMHC		$39,402.42	$7,335.00	$46,737.42	$39,402.42
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			$7,335.00		

Our agency, through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds from HMIS to a project activity, which constitutes as a substantial amendment. Therefore, any comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before September 29, 2023 no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-095 (RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)
Opening Date: Thursday, August 17, 2023
Closing Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Rota Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Rota Resident Manager or his/her designee. The Trades Assistant assists with the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, incinerators, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.

Duties:
- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities.
- Monitoring Plant systems as assigned.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily work activities.
- Assisting with equipment inspections, cleaning, corrosion control, and painting.
- Operating incinerators; oil and water separator pump, servicing and preparing oil filters.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing debris and housekeeping.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned. Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma/GED or ABE Program AS. Training and knowledge in operations repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities desired but not required.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- **Physical Demands and Work Environment:**
  - o Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects up to 45 pounds and over.
  - o Climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending.
  - o Work inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently.
  - o Work in environments exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes.
  - o Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work.
  - o Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays, may be on call for emergency response.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

UOG takes pride in alumni for USSBDC recognition

Three alumni from the University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration recently received national recognition through the U.S. Small Business Development Center Network's 40 under 40 awards for 2023.

Borja

Palec

Guerrero

The awards aim to spotlight the extraordinary contributions of individuals who have significantly impacted their local networks and the broader business landscape.

Nadine Deleon Guerrero, Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec, and Benjamin Huk Borja from the CNMI SBDC Network at the Northern Marianas College are among 40 in the nation who received the awards, the national SBDC announced.

Deleon Guerrero, who serves as the CNMI SBDC network director, earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, major in Communication, in 2012, and her Master of Public Administration from UOG in May 2023.

Palec is the CNMI SBDC associate network director. Palec earned her degree in Elementary Education from the Northern Marianas College and Master of Public Administration degree from UOG in May 2023.

Borja serves as the Tinian SBDC director/ business advisor. Borja received his Business Administration degree in accounting, from UOG in 2016.

"This recognition by the U.S. Small Business Development Center Network is an amazing achievement by three of our alumni," said UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez. "Advocating for small businesses grows our economies, creates jobs, and lifts up our communities." ***(UOG)***

PLA BOARD NOMINEES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho and Northern Islands Mayor Valentino Taisacan stand next to their respective nominees, Priscilla Iakopo and Kodep Ogumoro Uludong, for the Public Lands Advisory Board. Both nominees were confirmed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council. Both Uludong and Iakopo are ready with enthusiasm and vigor to begin their important work and are confident and ready for the task ahead. Camacho and Taisacan congratulate both Iakopo and Uludong and wish them the best of luck in their new roles.

NEW PROAPERKS PARTNER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GIG Nightclub Oasis has recently joined the Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partners, becoming the newest addition to a growing list of businesses and organizations in the program. All NMC ProaPerks card holders of legal drinking age can now enjoy a $1 discount on every drink purchase. Moreover, cardholders are entitled to a $50 discount on any VIP table reservation and can also receive a complimentary bucket of beer on their birthdays. GIG Nightclub Oasis is located on Coconut Street in Garapan, and more information can be found on their Instagram page (@gignightcluboasis). Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu.

Articles of Termination
Limited Liability Company (LLC)

The undersigned, the name of the Limited Liability Company, now hereby terminates its existence.

The company business has been wound up, and the legal existence of the company has been terminated.

The existence of the limited liability company is terminated upon the filing of the articles of termination, or upon a later effective date if specified in the articles of termination.

No person may execute this report knowing it is false in any material respect.

The Articles of Termination were made by a vote of ALL of the members of the **SUNRISE SAIPAN LLC** in Commonwealth Northern Marianas Islands on **August 20, 2023.**

SUNRISE SAIPAN LLC.
PMB 208, BOX 10000, SAIPAN, MP 96950
(670) 235-8885

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Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
#05-2023(b)

Opening date: August 14, 2023 **Closing date: September 01, 2023**

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Airport Manager	UNGRADED
	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) AOA Controller I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Rota Ports Manager	UNGRADED
	(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)
	(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance I	PL 5/1 to 5/12($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or ***CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 01, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp • Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, August 31, 2023,*** at 8 a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (07/20/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
- Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Regulations for final adoption

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- D.Demapan (Social Worker applicant) letter to the Board
- Complaint letters from CHCC

XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

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Guam hearing focuses on Pacific's importance in countering PRC

WASHINGTON, D.C—Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) took part in an international field hearing of the Committee on Natural Resources on Aug. 24 in Guam, led by committee chair Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), examining the importance of the U.S. Pacific Territories and the Freely Associated States to the United States' ability to counter the People's Republic of China's malign influence, and maintain national and allied strategic interests in the region.

"We held this unique hearing in Guam as a committee because Guam and [the] CNMI are northern keystones in the free and open Pacific. We are determined to keep the vast Pacific free and open, as it has mostly been since 1945, even as we stood for decades against Soviet imperialism," said Radewagen. "Now, standing together, we are facing the threat of the once-concealed, but now overt, velvet-gloved hand of PRC ambitions that hides the iron fist of PRC totalitarian, communist imperialism. The United States is also part of the southern Pacific where American Samoa's alignment with the U.S. is foundational to helping maintain this free and open region with our nation's allies."

Earlier this year, the committee formed the bipartisan Indo-Pacific Task Force—with Radewagen and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) as co-chairs—to examine Congress' role in deterring the aggression of the People's Republic of China in the regions, including the Pacific territories and FAS. As a part of the task force's work, last week's hearing elaborated on the robust discussions that have come up during these task force meetings.

The hearing, titled "Peace Through Strength: The Strategic Importance of the Pacific Islands to U.S. Global Security," included the following expert witnesses testifying in two panels:

- Gov. Lourdes "Lou" Leon Guerrero of Guam;
- Gov. Arnold I. Palacios of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands;
- Finance Minister Kaleb Udui, Jr. of the Republic of Palau;
- Acting Foreign Affairs secretary Ricky Cantero of the Federated States of Micronesia;
- Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Jack Ading of the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- Vice Speaker Tina Barnes of the Guam Legislature;
- World War II survivor Irene Sgambelluri of Talofofo, Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Committee on Natural Resources, led by committee chair Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), holds a field hearing last Aug. 24 in Guam.

During their time in Guam, members of Congress met with Leon Guerrero, members of the Guam National Guard, and received high-level briefings from military officials on the island. Members also met with local officials and heard from local business leaders about the challenges they face. Recent actions by the PRC have shown increasing aggression in the Indo-Pacific. Guam has been targeted specifically as Chinese vessels come near its shores and the military installations face cybersecurity threats.

The field hearing was a chance to hear from community stakeholders and local leaders in Guam about how their community, and the Pacific Islands, is uniquely at risk from PRC aggression. Members also learned from experts in the field on how America's military superiority can keep this aggression at bay.

"Guam's importance to America's national security cannot be overstated. Less than 2,000 miles away from here lies a threat to freedom and self-determination in the People's Republic of China under the ruling Chinese Communist Party. The CCP not only seeks to challenge American leadership but is also aggressively working to undermine the democratic values and institutions that we hold dear. The recent PRC hacks in Guam show that Guam is on the frontlines of the fight against this threat. It was an honor to be here in Guam to hear from local leaders and communities and to celebrate America's unrivaled military strength in the Pacific," said Westerman.

"This is certainly a historic moment for Guam, as we have not had a congressional hearing on island for more than a decade. The fact that the House Natural Resources Committee has approved the request to conduct one is certainly significant, as it places Guam on the congressional map when it comes to priorities. Our team has worked hard to ensure our issues are addressed, and having members physically see and hear our concerns firsthand will certainly go a long way. Guam's proximity becomes even more valuable to the United States of America with the rise of concerns coming from the Chinese Communist Party. There have been numerous instances where they have tested their limits with Guam by hacking into the infrastructure of American military bases, operating their warships near our waters, and the illegal entry of Chinese nationals embarking on our shores from the CNMI. I want to thank my colleagues in Congress for recognizing Guam's importance and seeing us as a community, not merely an island with military installations," said Delegate Jim Moylan (R-Guam). ***(PR)***

2 graduate from NMHC Family Self-Sufficiency Program

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. recently presented certificates of completion to Jocelyn T. Blas and Michael Q. Tomokane for graduating from NMHC's Family Self-Sufficiency Program, which is a voluntary program designed to assist families in becoming economically dependent.

NMHC's board of directors, management and staff, as well as representatives of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office, presented the two with their certificates of completion last Aug. 21, 2023.

NMHC board chair Marcie M. Tomokane and the entire NMHC board congratulated both graduates and commended them for their outstanding achievement.

"We are extremely proud of Ms. Blas and Mr. Tomokane for completing the FSS Program and have become self-sufficient. They are the perfect examples, along with the previous graduates, so that others may enroll in the program to better themselves and learn new skills," said Tomokane.

NMHC continues to encourage Housing Choice Voucher participants to enroll in the FSS Program to avail of assistance such as job placement, obtaining their GED (high school equivalency), learning crafts and trades, etc. to better their lives and become less dependent on federal subsidies/assistance. NMHC is currently working with 19 households to successfully compete the program.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to be able to save up through the assistance of your office and be sufficient enough and ready to provide a comfortable home for my children," said Blas.

As a single parent and no caretaker, Blas applied during the opening of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list in order to secure a safe, decent, and sanitary home for her family. She participated in the FSS Program in April 2016 and wanted to gain employment and further her education. Through the assistance of the FSS coordinator, she applied at the Workforce Investment Agency. She was hired in May 2017 and started working at the CNMI Scholarship Office as a financial aid analyst. Blas also continued with her education and received her associate degree in Business from the Columbia Southern University in January 2022. Blas said she intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in Business. In July 2022, she was given the position as a compliance specialist I, which she still holds with the CNMI Scholarship Office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jocelyn T. Blas and Michael Q. Tomokane graduate from the Family Self-Sufficiency Program of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

The other graduate, Tomokane, was one of the first applicants of the FSS Program. He was accepted into the FSS Program in April 2016. He started working under the Public School System's Early Head Start Program as a teacher aide. By 2021, he was given the opportunity to become an instructor and have his own classroom. According to Tomokane, he loves and enjoys his job as an instructor. He is able to teach younger kids to be independent and is happy to see the progress of kids in making changes in their lives.

"Having a stable job meant that my family and I had the opportunity to establish a more secure foundation. This program not only provided us with financial support but also offered a chance to save for our place. This savings would prove invaluable when it came to furnishing our new home and covering initial expenses" Tomokane stated.

With the support of local agencies, FSS combines case management, education, job training, and ongoing support to aid the family in improving their lives and to achieve complete financial independence within five to seven years. The main requirements are the desire to become self-sufficient and a commitment to take the steps necessary to make this happen.

Eligible participants are those who are currently receiving rental assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and are the head of household and 18 years of age or older. A great benefit to the FSS Program is that recipients, who pay a rent share receive an interest-bearing escrow account. The account accrues as the household's portion accrues as the household's portion of rent increases because of an increase in earned income. The account is held until the participant successfully completes the contract. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 171

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

'India is now on the moon': A shoestring budget and can-do attitude equaled a cosmic success

India achieved a legendary feat on Wednesday. With the successful landing of the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft it became the fourth country to have landed on the moon—and the first to have landed near the lunar South Pole.

What's more, the operation's $74 million cost was significantly less than the budgets of blockbuster space movies such as "Gravity" and "Interstellar."

The moment was particularly impressive, given the crash days earlier of Russia's Luna-25, which was aiming for the same lunar region.

"India is now on the moon. ... We are witnessing history," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while watching the landing from South Africa.

India's stellar achievement is exemplary for its ambition in the face of the country's significant economic hurdles. Its space program's $2-billion budget is a mere fraction of that of every other country that has landed on the moon. Contrast that to the 2022 space budgets of the U.S. at $62 billion and China at $12 billion. In the early days of the state-run Indian Space Research Organization, the scientists would transport rocket parts on their bicycles.

This is an endearing example of the "jugaad" mindset of Indian engineers, which describes problem-solving with frugality and creativity. Using this idea of frugal engineering helped the world's largest democracy achieve lofty ambitions and make a name on a global stage.

Although top Indian engineering colleges have a fraction of the endowment of top American engineering colleges such as Stanford and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, their graduates go on to dominate top jobs in Silicon Valley—including the CEOs of multibillion-dollar corporations such as Microsoft and Alphabet.

Here's to the country that transformed a shoestring budget into cosmic success, reminding us all that the universe favors the bold, but especially those who are both innovative and wise.

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PLAYGROUND TAUNTS, CHILDISH SKIRMISHES AND IMMATURE INSULTS.
YES, THE SCHOOL YEAR HAS STARTED.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES.
LASVEGASSUN 2023
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What Harvard can learn from Olive Garden

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. He is coauthor of* Talent: How to Identify Energizers, Creatives, and Winners Around the World.

The evidence continues to accumulate that America's nonprofit sector is failing the country in some basic ways. Specifically, it is not doing enough to break down unjust inequalities and barriers to opportunity.

Consider nonprofit hospitals. According to the data, nonprofit hospitals barely behave differently than for-profit hospitals. They do not charge systematically lower prices or somehow do more to help people. Some studies show slight differences, but it's hard to argue that non-profit hospitals are more charitable or have more altruistic priorities.

Another example: prestigious universities. At Harvard, for example, more than two-thirds of the undergraduates come from the top 20% of the income distribution, while only 4.5% come from the bottom 20%. Given that Harvard has an endowment of roughly $50 billion and enjoys tax-free status, it might be expected to distribute its benefits more evenly—if only to avoid the bad publicity. (Disclosure: I work at a nonprofit university and have a degree from Harvard.)

At this point, I'm no longer surprised when I read a study detailing how inegalitarian some nonprofit institutions are. So I was pleasantly surprised to read an investigation, released last week, that took a novel approach: It used geolocation data to examine which places are the best—and which the worst—at bringing rich and poor Americans together.

Unfortunately, museums scored especially poorly, and of course most of them are nonprofits. Nor do churches fare well, even though their rhetoric tends to be very friendly to the poor. And there are many places in the for-profit private sector that do badly. Drugstores, for instance, tend to be very local, and their customers reflect the income segregation of their neighborhoods.

And which are the best at attracting customers from all income levels? Chain restaurants. Not necessarily fast-food places, but so-called casual restaurants. As it turns out, the rich and poor in America only truly come together at places like Olive Garden and Applebee's.

Where I live, in northern Virginia, I have noticed that high-quality but cheap Chinese restaurants have an especially mixed clientele. The combination of lower prices and regional cuisine, which can be a signal of refined taste, seems to appeal to a wide demographic.

These kinds of restaurants manage to mix the rich and poor by creating an environment in which a lot of the traditional status markers are absent. None of these places could be described as fancy, and the mixing occurs partly because many higher-income customers are willing to do without the trappings of their local country club (to their benefit, I might add).

These findings raise a question: If the goal is to become more egalitarian, is there anything America's nonprofit institutions can learn from its casual restaurants?

One lesson is that it's harder to convince poorer individuals to mingle with wealthier individuals in settings where the culture is shaped to align with a higher socioeconomic status. Churches, for instance, are usually free and open to all—but the poor do not seem so keen on attending religious services in wealthier neighborhoods. Maybe that's because they don't view the wealthier church as a "better service" (however that might be defined) but rather as an environment where they do not feel entirely comfortable or welcome.

In other words: Wealthier institutions or establishments attract a mixed customer or user base only when they give up cultural control. Taller stained-glass windows and more comfortable pews can do only so much to attract lower-income churchgoers. (An aside: One nice feature of marketing "culture"—for lack of a better word—on the internet is that it can be broadly appealing. Classical music on YouTube, for example, is not only free but also free of snob appeal.)

The business model of America's nonprofit sector depends on producing status and reputation, both for itself and its affiliates. Many nonprofits work at creating environments of a very particular sort, both to raise money and to boost their influence. To elites, those environments are innocuous, even inspiring. But those same elites are starting to realize that what is inviting to one person is off-putting to another.

To be fair, the question of how to be more egalitarian plagues more than just the nonprofit sector. The rise of populist politics around the world, for example, can in many ways be explained by the failure of elites and experts to tailor their appeal to ordinary voters.

I will not pretend that Olive Garden is my favorite restaurant. I will say, however, that this latest research gives me a newfound appreciation for it.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Making tourism our business: Our neighborhood nemesis

By CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christopher A. Concepcion is the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

As I mentioned last month in recapping the state of our Marianas tourism industry, arrivals from Korea are nearly 75% recovered compared to pre-pandemic levels, Japan is growing incrementally with three flights a week from Tokyo, and even FIT visitors (free independent travelers) from China are starting a come back, with transits through Seoul and Tokyo. As of July 2023, visitor arrivals this year are 44% recovered compared to fiscal year 2019 prior to the pandemic, and arrivals rates continue to move in the right direction.

And yet there is one major obstacle to becoming a world-class destination that is staring at us in the face. We encounter it every day, driving to work or school, heading to the grocery store, or walking to school. That problem is neighborhood blight.

> There is one major obstacle to becoming a world-class destination that is staring at us in the face. We encounter it every day, driving to work or school, heading to the grocery store, or walking to school.

By neighborhood, I mean every community we live, work, and frolic in—but especially our main tourism district of Garapan, downtown Songsong, the heart of San Jose on Tinian, and our major roadways. Many of us have become used to the condition or appearance of buildings and structures that are unfinished, abandoned, have holes, breaks, rot, cracking, spalling, peeling, rusting, and other evidence of physical decay or neglect, excessive use, or lack of maintenance. But it's unattractive, unsafe, and to our visitors an unexpected and unpleasant letdown.

While the Marianas Visitors Authority is investing millions of dollars each year to entice travelers to choose Saipan, Tinian, and Rota over competing destinations like Thailand, Vietnam, Fiji or Hawaii, what awaits them when they arrive is a beautiful seascape and lush, green mountains—with rundown, dilapidated buildings in every direction. It's a sore disappointment for our visitors who are wooed by Instagram-ready images of a clean, nature-based island paradise in a community that would otherwise appear to be environmentally conscious.

Fortunately—unlike pandemics, natural disasters, currency exchange rates, and other factors influencing tourism—the solution to the problem of blight and improving our physical environment is within our own hands. And there's no better time than now to get serious about it. I invite everyone—regulatory agencies, building and property owners—to consider what they can do and join in addressing these issues—not just for our visitors, but for ourselves.

There is already a law in place to compel property owners on Saipan that hold blighted properties within the island "to be accountable to secure and maintain abandoned, vacant, and blighted properties." Saipan Local Law No. 20-25 designates the Saipan Zoning Office to accomplish this, recognizing that blight properties "detract from the quality of life, as well as the economic opportunities, of those living around them. These types of conditions lower the livability of neighborhoods and can increase crime and calls for emergency services, all of which put additional strains on already taxed local budgets." The law has been in the books since 2018. If we are serious about resolving our blight problem, the next step would be to strengthen the original law with an amendment establishing a framework within the Zoning Office and equipping them with the resources and full legal authority to move forward. It would be a sound investment in the safety, aesthetics, and economic growth of the island.

But it doesn't take a law or the threat of penalty to act on this problem. Kudos to those already taking the lead. Numerous companies and non-profit organizations stepped up to help clean and restore public sites during the downtime of the pandemic; many of them continue to do so. Earlier this month the Department of Corrections undertook the cleanup of an abandoned lot across from our international brand hotels in Garapan. The Saipan Mayor's Office assisted with the cleanup of the debris and dead trees fronting Micro Beach. School groups conduct beach cleanups. What it requires is a willingness to take action.

And I must add, the problem of blighted properties is not just one of aesthetics. Over the last decade, more research has emerged on the negative impact of blight on residents' health. The time to act is now.

Widespread blight is not an easy problem to address. It will require the collective action of pertinent agencies, organizations, and citizens. It will take a lead agency, the development of a plan based on best practices and our community values, and the investment of time and resources. But if there's one thing our Marianas community has proven, it's our ability to unite in overcoming challenges. We united to recover from Super Typhoon Yutu and other major storms, we united to keep each other safe during the pandemic, and I believe that if we unite, we can collectively make The Marianas a world-class destination desired by travelers across the globe, as the MVA is working to do. Among our top agenda items to accomplish that is removing blight. How can you help in your neighborhood?

I look forward to what can be done as we work toward a common goal of creating a home and a destination we can be proud of by "Making Tourism Our Business."

Brain-to-text technology is about more than Musk

By LISA JARVIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of* Chemical & Engineering News.

Two new studies published simultaneously in the journal Nature document a leap forward in the race to teach computers to translate brain signals into text. It's an exciting development in a field that is attracting millions in investment, including to Elon Musk's brain-implant company, Neuralink Corp.

But to turn these discoveries into viable commercial products, investors and entrepreneurs should put aside focus less on Musk's musings about a world where able-bodied people merge with computers to enhance their intelligence. They should instead focus on the monumental benefits of helping people who have lost their ability to communicate or move.

Advances in technology are bringing researchers tantalizingly close to restoring the ability to speak to those who have lost it, whether because of stroke, paralysis or a disease like ALS. Crucially, that work holds lessons that could accelerate broader efforts to connect our brains to computers, including those intended to help paralyzed people regain control over their muscles.

In the Nature studies, two teams, one led by researchers from Stanford University and the other led by University of California San Francisco, used different types of implants to collect electronic signals from the brains of volunteers and different algorithms to interpret them. The results, though, were similar: Attempts at speech could be converted to text at a rate of 60-70 words per minute. While still half as fast as a typical person's cadence, it's a vast improvement over earlier brain-computer interfaces.

And in both studies, the computer was able to decode speech with remarkable accuracy. Whereas earlier versions of the technology could decipher only a few hundred words, the Stanford team's algorithm could interpret the equivalent of a short dictionary. "It is certainly a big step in performance," says Alexander Huth, a neuroscientist at the University of Texas at Austin.

In addition to improving the range and speed at which someone can speak, the UCSF team took the user experience a step further: They developed a personalized avatar for their volunteer, who was paralyzed by a brainstem stroke more than 18 years ago. The avatar uses her own voice, taken from a clip of her speaking at her wedding, and integrates facial expressions. "Speech isn't just about communicating words, but also who we are," says Edward Chang, the neurosurgeon who led the UCSF work. "Our voices are our identity."

Although each team reported results from just one volunteer, other researchers in the field say it's enough to be confident that brain-computer interfaces (shorthanded as BCI) are nearing a point where they could be truly useful to people unable to speak. An accompanying editorial by two other brain-machine experts called the developments "a turning point in the development of BCI technology that aims to restore communication for people with severe paralysis."

All this hope must be grounded in an unfortunately harsh reality: It will be very tough to turn these technologies into profitable products. The eligible patient population is small. The devices will be expensive and require very specific expertise and training to use. Early entrants to the market will face a hard path. The field's most prominent cautionary tale is the meltdown of Second Sight Medical Products, a company that developed retinal implants. In 2020, the company began winding down operations before eventually merging with another firm, leaving people who relied on their bionic eyes in the lurch.

Yet eventually, investment in this field is likely to pay off as researchers find broader applications. "As soon as you have the technology to read from a large number of neurons, or stimulate a large number of neurons, these technologies will be used for many things," says Cynthia Chestek, a biomedical engineer at the University of Michigan. Chestek, for example, can imagine how similar hardware and algorithms could help with her own work trying to use these types of signals to read muscle commands in people with spinal cord injuries—and in turn help them move prosthetic or even their own limbs.

Too much of the hype around BCI technology has centered on Musk's musings about a world where cyborg-humans operate with enhanced consciousness. To be clear: If ever achievable, that's a dream that's many decades in the future.

Where Musk has helped is by stimulating interest and investment in the field. That should help get the hardware (the actual brain implant) to a point that regulators feel comfortable with its long-term safety.

On a call with media, Stanford researcher Jaimie Henderson reminded reporters of what's at stake for families. When he was 5, his father lost much of his ability to communicate after a devastating car accident. As a child, he could sometimes understand the joke his dad was trying to tell, but not the punchline. "I grew up wishing that I could know him and communicate with him."

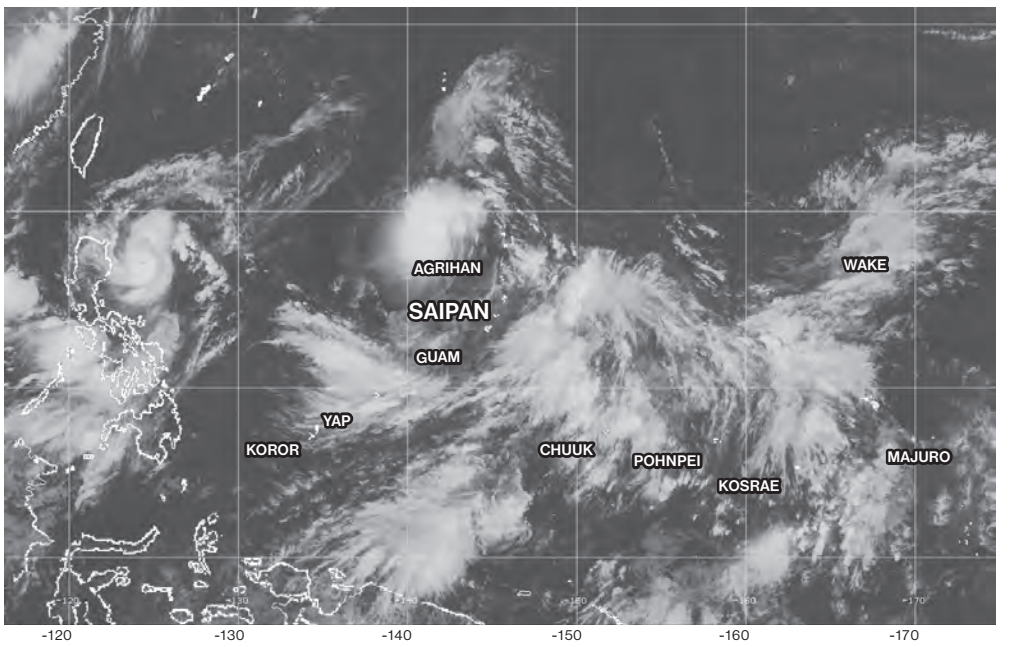
It's not a stretch to imagine the feeling was mutual. These advances suggest Henderson's wish could be a reality for many families in the not-to-distant future.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall	Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall.	Showers likely. The rain could be heavy at times. Cloudy	Showers likely. The rain could be heavy at times. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
86° 80°	85° 80°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:24 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows the Marianas Waters are under a subsident mote surrounding the now consilidating Invest Area 93W to the northwest. As a result, only isolated showers are moving through at this time. More scattered showers are seen to the southeast. The Ipan buoy reveals a 3 to 5 foot south swell, which could be wrapping around the island from a larger southwest or west-southwest swell. Computer wave model guidance shows this to be a 6 to 8 foot west-southwest swell, leading to combined seas of 7 to 10 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 75°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 75°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:42 AM	5:11 PM
Wednesday	-	4:49 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	-	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	-	6:56 AM	7:35 PM
Saturday	-	7:55 AM	8:17 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Rain	61° / 48°
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 68°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	84° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	81° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Sunny	57° / 39°
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	96° / 79°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	82° / 64°
Busan	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	88° / 63°
Salem	Thunderstorm	89° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 57°
Seoul	Thunderstorm	81° / 73°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	96° / 77°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
4:45 AM	Low Tide	2.01
12:14 PM	Low Tide	-0.32
7:26 PM	High Tide	2.04
-	-	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Global inflation pressures could become harder to manage in coming years

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (AP)—Rising trade barriers. Aging populations. A broad transition from carbon-spewing fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The prevalence of such trends across the world could intensify global inflation pressures in the coming years and make it harder for the Federal Reserve and other central banks to meet their inflation targets.

That concern was a theme sounded in several high-profile speeches and economic studies presented Friday and Saturday at the Fed's annual conference of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

For decades, the global economy had been moving toward greater integration, with goods flowing more freely between the United States and its trading partners. Lower-wage production overseas allowed Americans to enjoy inexpensive goods and kept inflation low, though at the expense of many U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Since the pandemic, though, that trend has shown signs of reversing. Multinational corporations have been shifting their supply chains away from China. They are seeking instead to produce more items—particularly semiconductors, crucial for the production of autos and electronic goods—in the United States, with the encouragement of massive subsidies by the Biden administration.

At the same time, large-scale investments in renewable energies could prove disruptive, at least temporarily, by increasing government borrowing and demand for raw materials, thereby heightening inflation. Much of the world's population is aging, and older people are less likely to keep working. Those trends could act as supply shocks, similar to the shortages of goods and labor that accelerated inflation during the rebound from the pandemic recession.

"The new environment sets the stage for larger relative price shocks than we saw before the pandemic," Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, said in a speech Friday. "If we face both higher investment needs and greater supply constraints, we are likely to see stronger price pressures in markets like commodities—especially for the metals and minerals that are crucial for green technologies."

This would complicate the work of the ECB, the Fed and other central banks whose mandates are to keep price increases in check. Nearly all central banks are still struggling to curb the high inflation that intensified starting in early 2021 and has only partly subsided.

"We are living in this world in which we could expect to have more and maybe bigger supply shocks," Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, said in an interview. "All of these things tend to make it harder to produce stuff and make it more costly. And that is definitely the configuration that central banks dislike the most."

The shifting patterns in global trade patterns sparked the most attention during Saturday's discussions at the Jackson Hole conference. A paper presented by Laura Alfaro, an economist at Harvard Business School, found that after decades of growth, China's share of U.S. imports fell 5% from 2017 to 2022. Her research attributed the decline to tariffs imposed by the United States and the efforts of large U.S. companies to find other sources of goods and parts after China's pandemic shutdowns disrupted its output.

Those imports came largely from such other countries as Vietnam, Mexico and Taiwan, which have better relations with the United States than does China—a trend known as "friendshoring."

Despite all the changes, U.S. imports reached an all-time high in 2022, suggesting that overall trade has remained high.

"We are not deglobalizing yet," Alfaro said. "We are seeing a looming 'Great Reallocation' " as trade patterns shift.

She noted that there are also tentative signs of "reshoring"—the return of some production to the United States. Alfaro said the United States is importing more parts and unfinished goods than it did before the pandemic, evidence that more final assembly is occurring domestically. And the decline of U.S. manufacturing jobs, she said, appears to have bottomed out.

Yet Alfaro cautioned that these changes bring downsides as well: In the past five years, the cost of goods from Vietnam has increased about 10% and from Mexico about 3%, adding to inflationary pressures.

In addition, she said, China has boosted its investment in factories in Vietnam and Mexico. Moreover, other countries that ship goods to the United States also import parts from China. Those developments suggest that the United States hasn't necessarily reduced its economic ties with China.

Broadband subsidy program to expire next year if Congress doesn't act

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One of the features that President Joe Biden cited in his plan to bring internet to every home and business in the United States by 2030 was affordability. But an important federal program established to keep broadband costs down for low-income households is set to expire next year.

The Affordable Connectivity Program has not reached everyone who is eligible. According to an Associated Press analysis of enrollment and census data, less than than 40% of eligible households have utilized the program, which provides monthly subsidies of $30, and in some cases, up to $75, to help pay for internet connections.

Still, the program has been a lifeline for Kimberlyn Barton-Reyes, who is paraplegic and visually impaired. Barton-Reyes did not have to wait for an in-person appointment when a seizure-alert system disconnected from her electric wheelchair in November. The company that services her chair assessed the problem remotely, ordered the parts she needed and got the chair fixed quickly.

"Most people are like 'Internet is not a basic need,'" said Barton-Reyes, who lives in Austin, Texas. "It absolutely is for me."

Barton-Reyes relies on Social Security disability insurance for her income while she takes part in a vocational program for adults who are newly blind. She is able to pay for her internet connection with an assist from the Affordable Connectivity Program. Barton-Reyes, who said an autoimmune issue damaged her vision, is working to get other eligible Austin residents signed up, too.

AP

Kimberlyn Barton-Reyes, who is paraplegic and visually impaired, poses for a photo at a rehabilitation center, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, in Austin, Texas.

Workers exposed to extreme heat have no consistent protection

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Santos Brizuela spent more than two decades laboring outdoors, persisting despite a bout of heatstroke while cutting sugarcane in Mexico and chronic laryngitis from repeated exposure to the hot sun while on various other jobs.

But last summer, while on a construction crew in Las Vegas, he reached his breaking point. Exposure to the sun made his head ache immediately. He lost much of his appetite.

Now at a maintenance job, Brizuela, 47, is able to take breaks. There are flyers on the walls with best practices for staying healthy—protections he had not been afforded before.

"Sometimes as a worker you ask your employer for protection or for health and safety related needs, and they don't listen or follow," he said in Spanish through an interpreter.

A historic heat wave that began blasting the Southwest and other parts of the country this summer is shining a spotlight on one of the harshest, yet least-addressed effects of U.S. climate change: the rising deaths and injuries of people who work in extreme heat, whether inside warehouses and kitchens or outside under the blazing sun. Many of them are migrants in low-wage jobs.

State and federal governments have long implemented federal procedures for environmental risks exacerbated by climate change, namely drought, flood and wildfires. But extreme heat protections have generally lagged with "no owner" in state and federal governments, said Ladd Keith, an assistant professor of planning and a research associate at the University of Arizona.

"In some ways, we have a very long way to catch up to the governance gap in treating the heat as a true climate hazard," Keith said.

There is no federal heat standard in the U.S. despite an ongoing push from President Joe Biden's administration to establish one. Most of the hottest U.S. states currently have no heat-specific standards either.

Instead, workers in many states who are exposed to extreme heat are ostensibly protected by what is known as the "general duty clause," which requires employers to mitigate hazards that could cause serious injury or death. The clause permits state authorities to inspect work sites for violations, and many do, but there are no consistent benchmarks for determining what constitutes a serious heat hazard.

"What's unsafe isn't always clear," said Juanita Constible, a senior advocate from the National Resources Defense Council who tracks extreme heat policy. "Without a specific heat standard, it makes it more challenging for regulators to decide, 'OK, this employer's breaking the law or not.'"

Many states are adopting their own versions of a federal "emphasis" program increasing inspections to ensure employers offer water, shade and breaks, but citations and enforcement still must go through the general duty clause.

Extreme heat is notably absent from the list of disasters to which the Federal Emergency Management Agency can respond. And while regional floodplain managers are common throughout the country, there are only three newly created "chief heat officer" positions to coordinate extreme heat planning, in Miami-Dade County, Phoenix and Los Angeles.

Federal experts have recommended extreme heat protections since 1972, but it wasn't until 1997 and 2006, respectively, that Minnesota and California adopted the first statewide protections. For a long time, those states were the exception, with only a scattering of others joining them throughout the early 2000s.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Top US and Chinese commerce officials express support for better trade conditions

BEIJING (AP) — Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and her Chinese counterpart expressed support for improving trade conditions as Raimondo on Monday began a visit to Beijing aimed at improving chilly relations. Raimondo joined American officials including Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in July who have visited China in the past three months. They expressed optimism about improving communication but have announced no progress on technology, security, human rights and other disputes that have plunged relations to their lowest level in decades. For its part, Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government wants to revive foreign investor interest in China as it tries to reverse a deepening economic slump. Beijing is ready to work together to "foster a more favorable policy environment for stronger cooperation" and "bolster bilateral trade and investment," Commerce Minister Wang Wentao told Raimondo. Wang gave no details of possible initiatives.

Foxconn billionaire Terry Gou says he will seek Taiwan's presidency as independent candidate

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Terry Gou, the billionaire founder of the electronics giant Foxconn, declared Monday that he will run as an independent candidate for president in Taiwan's 2024 election, ending months of speculation. At a news conference, Gou criticized the governing Democratic Progressive Party, saying its policies have "brought Taiwan into the risk of war" with China, which claims the self-ruled island democracy as part of its territory. He said Taiwan also needs new approaches on the economy and other matters at home. "Domestically, the national policy direction is filled with all sorts of mistakes. There's no way to solve the difficulties of Taiwanese industry and people's livelihoods," he said. Gou's Foxconn, formally known as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., is a major supplier to Apple and has factories in China.

Nation

Desantis booed at vigil as hundreds mourn more racist killings

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Hundreds of people gathered Sunday at prayer vigils and in church, in frustration and exhaustion, to mourn yet another racist attack in America: this one the killing of three Black people in Florida at the hands of a white, 21-year-old man who authorities say left behind white supremacist ramblings that read like "the diary of a madman."

Following services earlier in the day, about 200 people showed up at a Sunday evening vigil a block from the Dollar General store in Jacksonville where officials said Ryan Palmeter opened fire Saturday using guns he bought legally despite a past involuntary commitment for a mental health exam.

Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis—who is running for the GOP nomination for president, who has loosened gun laws in Florida and who has antagonized civil rights leaders by deriding "wokeness "—was loudly booed as he addressed the vigil.

Ju'Coby Pittman, a Jacksonville city councilwoman who represents the neighborhood where the shooting happened, stepped in to ask the crowd to listen.

"It ain't about parties today," she said. "A bullet don't know a party."

DeSantis said that on Monday the state would be announcing financial support for security at Edward Waters University, the historically black college near where the shooting occurred, and to help the affected families. He called the gunman a "major league scumbag."

AP
Residents of the Jacksonville community attend a prayer vigil for the victims of Saturday's mass shooting Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023, in Jacksonville, Fla.

"What he did is totally unacceptable in the state of Florida," DeSantis said. "We are not going to let people be targeted based on their race."

Sheriff T.K. Waters identified those killed as Angela Michelle Carr, 52, who was shot in her car; store employee A.J. Laguerre, 19, who was shot as he tried to flee; and customer Jerald Gallion, 29, who was shot as he entered the store in a predominantly Black neighborhood.

Gallion attended St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Bishop John Guns told the crowd. He was the 33rd murder victim in the 27 years Guns has been there, he said.

"In two weeks I have to preach a funeral of a man who should still be alive," Guns said. "He was not a gangster, he was not a thug—he was a father who gave his life to Jesus and was trying to get it together.

"I wept in church today like a baby because my heart is tired. We are exhausted."

The latest in a long history of American racist killings unfolded early Saturday afternoon after Palmeter first parked at Edward Waters University.

The sheriff said a video posted on TikTok with no timestamp showed Palmeter donning a bullet-resistant vest. A university security guard spotted Palmeter and parked near him. Palmeter drove off and the security guard flagged down a Jacksonville sheriff's officer who was about to send out an alert to other officers when the shooting began at the store.

Son stolen at birth hugs Chilean mother for first time in 42 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—"Hola, Mama."

What seems like an unremarkable greeting between mother and son was in this case anything but.

Forty-two years ago, hospital workers took Maria Angelica Gonzalez' son from her arms right after birth and later told her he had died. Now, she was meeting him face-to-face at her home in Valdivia, Chile.

"I love you very much," Jimmy Lippert Thyden told his mother in Spanish as they embraced amid tears.

"It knocked the wind out of me. ... I was suffocated by the gravity of this moment," Thyden told The Associated Press in a video call after the reunion. "How do you hug someone in a way that makes up for 42 years of hugs?"

His journey to find the birth family he never knew began in April after he read news stories about Chilean-born adoptees who had been reunited with their birth relatives with the help of a Chilean nonprofit Nos Buscamos.

The organization found that Thyden had been born prematurely at a hospital in Santiago, Chile's capital, and placed in an incubator. Gonzalez was told to leave the hospital, but when she returned to get her baby, she was told he had died and his body had been disposed of, according to the case file, which Thyden summarized to the AP.

"The paperwork I have for my adoption tells me I have no living relatives. And I learned in the last few months that I have a mama and I have four brothers and a sister," Thyden said in the interview from Ashburn, Virginia, where he works as a criminal defense attorney representing "people who look like me" who cannot afford a lawyer.

He said his was a case of "counterfeit adoption."

Tropical Storm Idalia takes aim at Gulf of Mexico on a possible track toward the US

MIAMI (AP)—Tropical Storm Idalia was near the coast of Cuba Sunday on a potential track to come ashore as a hurricane in the southern U.S., the National Hurricane Center said.

At 10 p.m. CDT Sunday, the storm was about 145 miles (235 kilometers) off the western tip of Cuba with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kmh). The storm was stationary at the time, the hurricane center said.

The center's update also included a hurricane advisory for the Cuban province of Pinar Del Rio.

Forecasters said they expected Idalia to become a hurricane on Tuesday in the Gulf of Mexico and then curve northeast toward the west coast of Florida.

Idalia could approach Florida on Wednesday with winds of up to 100 mph (160 kph), according to the latest forecasts from the Hurricane Center. That would make it a Category 2 hurricane.

Along a vast stretch of Florida's west coast, up to 11 feet (3.4 meters) of ocean water could surge on shore, raising fears of destructive flooding.

At a Sunday afternoon briefing, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis noted that much uncertainty remains in the forecast.

"This thing hasn't even gotten to Cuba yet, and the water in the Gulf is very, very warm and so that will provide some fuel for this thing to pick up some more speed," DeSantis said.

Large parts of the western coast of Florida are at risk of seawater surging onto land and flooding communities when a tropical storm or hurricane approaches. That part of Florida is very vulnerable to storm surges, Jamie Rhome, deputy director of the National Hurricane Center, said Sunday.

"So it will not take a strong system or a direct hit to produce significant storm surge," he said. "So if you're anywhere along the Florida Peninsula, western Florida Peninsula, so let's say from about Fort Myers northward to the Panhandle, you've really got to be paying attention."

Biden seen as too old for office—AP-NORC poll

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans actually agree on something in this time of raw discord: Joe Biden is too old to be an effective president in a second term. Only a few years his junior, Donald Trump raises strikingly less concern about his age.

But they have plenty of other problems with Trump, who at least for now far outdistances his rivals for the Republican nomination despite his multiple criminal indictments. Never mind his advanced years—if anything, some say, the 77-year-old ought to grow up.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds much of the public oddly united in sizing up the one trait Biden cannot change.

The president has taken to raising the age issue himself, with wisecracks, as if trying to relax his audiences about his 80 trips around the sun.

Age discrimination may be banned in the workplace but the president's employers—the people—aren't shy about their bias.

In the poll, fully 77% said Biden is too old to be effective for four more years. Not only do 89% of Republicans say that, so do 69% of Democrats. That view is held across age groups, not just by young people, though older Democrats specifically are more supportive of his 2024 bid.

In contrast, about half of U.S. adults say Trump is too old for the office, and here the familiar partisan divide emerges—Democrats are far more likely to disqualify Trump by age than are Republicans.

What's clear from the poll is that Americans are saying out with the old and in with the young, or at least younger.

Democrats, Republicans and independents want to sweep a broad broom through the halls of power, imposing age limits on the presidency, Congress and the Supreme Court. In all about two-thirds of U.S. adults back an age ceiling on candidates for president and Congress and a mandatory retirement age for justices.

Specifically, 67% favor requiring Supreme Court justices to retire by a certain age, 68% support age ceilings for candidates for House and Senate, and 66% support age ceilings for candidates for president.

With elders mostly running the show and the Constitution to contend with, don't expect that to happen any time soon.

Asia

'DON'T CHOP ME DOWN.'

100-year-old Tokyo trees may get axe

TOKYO (AP)—Miho Nakashima stood in a bathing suit in Tokyo on Sunday next to a 100-year-old gingko tree, her body painted head-to-toe in green leaves and brown branches.

Her message was clear, and she repeated it standing at the heart of the Jingu Gaien park area, its sanctity threatened by a disputed real-estate development plan.

"I'm a tree," she said. "Don't chop me down."

A plan approved earlier this year by Gov. Yuriko Koike would let developers, led by Mitsui Fudosan, build a pair of 200-meter (650-feet) skyscrapers in Jingu Gaien, mow down trees in one of Tokyo's few green areas and raze and rebuild a historic rugby venue and an adjoining baseball stadium.

Takayuki Nakamura, among a few hundred people who gathered on Sunday to protest, pressed his face into the bark of one tree and prayed. The area was set aside 100 years ago to honor Japan's Meiji Emperor.

"I want to appreciate the existence of these trees. Sometime I can feel some sounds inside," he said.

The planned redevelopment would take more than a decade to finish, and has attracted lawsuits with mounting opposition from conservationists, civic groups, local residents and sports fans.

Eighteen ginkgo trees behind the rugby stadium are likely to be cut down.

The flashpoint has been trees, green space, and who controls a public area that has been encroached on over the years. Also at issue is the fate of more than 100 gingko trees that line an avenue in the area and provide a colorful cascade of falling leaves each autumn. Botanists say any construction is sure to cause damage.

Critics say the plan has been rammed through despite a botched environmental assessment as real-estate developers take what was intended as public land and turn it into a private commercial venture.

Famous Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami has opposed the plan. And composer and musician Ryuichi Sakamoto sent an open letter to Koike deriding the plan just days before his death on March 28.

The rugby stadium was used during the 1964 Olympics, and Babe Ruth played in 1934 in the baseball stadium along with other American stars facing Japan's best players.

The project highlights the ties among the main actors: the governor, Mitsui Fudosan, and Meiji Jingu, a religious organization that owns much of the land to be redeveloped.

"The redevelopment of the park is obviously a public issue," Koichi Nakano, a political scientist at Sophia University, told The Associated Press earlier this year. "At the same time, they (politicians) can claim that it is a private decision of a religious organization and the developers.

"But because Jingu Gaien is also a public park with sports facilities, politicians can—and do—meddle in the decisions. Which results in the cozy, probably collusive relationships among the insiders that are unaccountable to the public."

About 1,500 trees were chopped down in the same area to build the $1.4 billion stadium for the Tokyo Olympics. Hosting the Olympics also allowed the city to change zoning laws, which may permit developers to further encroach on the park area.

"This is like building skyscrapers in the middle of Central Park in New York," Mikiko Ishikawa, an emeritus professor at the University of Tokyo, told The Associated Press.

Developers have argued the two sports facilities cannot be renovated and must be razed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

The Taliban say security forces will stop women from visiting Afghan national park

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Taliban will use security forces to stop women from visiting one of Afghanistan's most popular national parks, according to information shared by a spokesman for the Vice and Virtue Ministry. The ministry alleges that women have not been observing the proper way to wear the hijab, or Islamic headscarf, when going to Band-e-Amir in the central Bamiyan province. This comes a week after the minister, Mohammad Khalid Hanafi, visited the province and told officials and religious clerics that women haven't been adhering to the correct way of wearing the hijab, asking security personnel to stop women from visiting the tourist hotspot. "Going sightseeing is not a must for women," Hanafi said at the time.

Myanmar expels East Timor's diplomat in retaliation for supporting opposition forces

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar's military-installed government has ordered East Timor's senior diplomat to leave the country in retaliation for the East Timorese government holding meetings with Myanmar's main opposition organization, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday. The statement said East Timor has conducted engagements with Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government, which views itself as the country's legitimate administration after the military seized power from the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, 2021. The National Unity Government also serves as an umbrella organization for opponents of military rule. The Foreign Ministry said it informed the charge d'affaires of the East Timor Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city, on Friday to leave the country no later than Sept. 1.

The charge d'affaires is believed to be the first foreign diplomat expelled from Myanmar since the army takeover.

A US Marine Osprey crashes during drills in Australia, killing 3 and injuring 20, some critically

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A United States Marine Corps aircraft with 23 Marines aboard crashed on a north Australian island Sunday, killing at least three and critically injuring at least five during a multinational training exercise, officials said. Three had been confirmed dead on Melville Island and five were flown in serious condition 80 kilometers (50 miles) to the mainland city of Darwin for hospital treatment after the Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey aircraft crashed around 9:30 a.m., a statement from the Marines said. "Recovery efforts are ongoing," the statement said, adding the cause of the crash was under investigation. Aircraft had been sent from Darwin to retrieve more survivors from the remote location but no further details on the fate of the other 15 Marines on board had been released hours later.

World

Russia says it has confirmed: Prigozhin died in plane crash

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian authorities on Sunday confirmed the death of Wagner Group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, putting to rest any doubts about whether the wily mercenary leader turned mutineer was on a plane that crashed Wednesday, killing everyone on board.

Genetic testing on the 10 bodies recovered at the crash site "conform to the manifest " for the flight, Russian Investigative Committee spokeswoman Svetlana Petrenko said in a statement. Russia's civil aviation authority had said Prigozhin and some of his top lieutenants were on the list of seven passengers and three crew members.

The Investigative Committee did not indicate what might have caused the business jet to plummet from the sky halfway between Moscow and St. Petersburg, Prigozhin's hometown.

But the crash's timing raised suspicions of a possible Kremlin-orchestrated hit, while Prigozhin's chameleon-like background allowed for speculation that he wasn't on the plane or had somehow escaped death.

Two months ago, Prigozhin, 62, mounted a day-long mutiny against Russia's military, leading his mercenaries from Ukraine toward Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin decried the act as "treason" and vowed punishment for those involved.

Instead, the Kremlin quickly cut a deal with Prigozhin to end the armed revolt, saying he would be allowed to walk free without facing any charges and to resettle in Belarus. Questions remained about whether the former ally of Russia's leader would face a comeuppance for the brief uprising that posed the biggest challenge to Putin's authority of his 23-year rule.

Firefighters struggle to control Greek wildfires

AP

Flames burn a forest during wildfires near the village of Sykorrahi, near Alexandroupolis town, in the northeastern Evros region, Greece, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023.

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—More than 600 firefighters, including reinforcements from several European countries and backed by a fleet of water-dropping planes and helicopters, were tackling the remnants of three major wildfires in Greece Sunday, two of which have been raging for days.

Greece has been plagued by daily outbreaks of dozens of fires over the past week as gale-force winds and hot, dry summer conditions combined to whip up flames and hamper firefighting efforts. Across the country, firefighters were battling 105 wildfires on Sunday, with 46 of them having broken out in the 24 hours between Saturday evening and Sunday evening, the fire department said.

Authorities are investigating the causes of the blazes, with arson suspected in some.

In Greece's northeastern regions of Evros and Alexandroupolis, a massive wildfire believed to have caused 20 of the 21 wildfire-related deaths in the past week, was burning for a ninth day.

The blaze, where smaller fires combined to form one of the largest single wildfires ever to have struck a European Union country, has decimated vast tracts of forest and burned homes in outlying areas of the city of Alexandroupolis.

On Sunday, 295 firefighters, seven planes and five helicopters were tackling flare-ups that were creating new fire fronts, triggering evacuation orders for two villages, one in the Evros region and another in the Rodopi region.

Ukraine investigates incident that killed 3 pilots; Russia attacks with cruise missiles

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian authorities have launched an investigation after a midair collision between two warplanes in the west of the country killed three pilots.

Ukraine's air force spokesman Yuri Ihnat told Ukrainian television on Sunday it wasn't immediately clear how long the probe would take.

According to the air force's Telegram page, two L-39 training military aircraft collided on Friday during a combat mission over Ukraine's western Zhytomyr region. Three pilots were killed, including Andriy Pilshchykov, a well-known pilot with the nickname "Juice" who was an outspoken advocate for Ukraine getting F-16 fighter jets.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his nightly address on Saturday paid tribute to Pilshchykov, describing him as a "Ukrainian officer, one of those who helped our country a lot."

Ukraine's Vasilkiv tactical aviation brigade on Sunday identified the other two pilots killed in the collision as Viacheslav Minka and Serhiy Prokazin.

Overdrive

Silverado ZR2 is in a league of its own

The Chevrolet Silverado ZR2.
MARC GRASSO/BOSTON HERALD/TNS

By MARC D. GRASSO
Boston Herald

Chevrolet enters Grasso's Garage this week with its 1500 Silverado, but not just your typical half-ton work truck, the Silverado ZR2.

With a base price just under $70K, the ZR2 boasts a ton of standard features for off-road needs. General Motors, Chevrolet's parent company, had no choice but to build a monster similar to competing manufacturers with Ford's Raptor and RAMs TRX. The ZR2 provides a 6.2L ECO-TEC3 V-8 engine producing 420 horsepower and 460 pound-feet of torque.

The ZR2 was meant to focus specifically on the off-road market similar to its competition. But to my mind, the specifications and stats for the ZR2 tell a different story. Although I feel the ZR2 is more well-rounded than the competition, it's underpowered and undersized. The ZR2 would be more appropriate for those tight-fit trails and slimmer paths, while the TRX and Raptor are much wider.

NUTS & BOLTS
- **MSRP**: $69,800
- **MPG**: 14 city / 17 highway / 15.1 as tested
- **As Tested**: $77,400

The interior of the ZR2 is all new and a good example of what Chevrolet is capable of. The infotainment and driver's instrument cluster is upgraded and boasts a revived font and text size. Clarity for the infotainment system is a lot better than previous generations, and comfort has seemed to improve slightly as well. As an upscale Trail Boss in size and appearance, the ZR2 definitely is a beautiful looking truck. It has its perks, but as I mentioned before, I don't believe it's classified correctly.

In Grasso's Garage, the ZR2 does have a place. Although steep in its base price, this monster of a truck has power, looks and utility. We continue to await Chevrolet's better engine program, in hopes of getting better gas mileage, but on the other hand, this is also not your daily driver or work truck. We are pleased with its overall performance, stance and everything it has to offer, but will never classify it against its so-called competition.

2023 Toyota Crown is finally here

By MARC D. GRASSO
Boston Herald

As Toyota betters their fleet with the elimination of the longtime Avalon, the creation of the Toyota Crown was born. Bringing Lexus to the table, who molds the Crown into the luxury vehicle it deserves, we notice some Lexus interior-like accents and technology.

With exterior curvatures similar to the Polestar 2, we notice a mid-size luxury vehicle in our 2023 Crown Limited tester. With a base price of just under $40K, the Crown is really a nicely sized and priced vehicle with tons of interior legroom. Did I mention fuel mileage? We noticed 41 miles per gallon with our hybrid engine option on our weeklong test. Powering our Crown Limited tester was the only engine option, a 2.5 liter 4-cylinder hybrid with AWD. This included a 236 hybrid system net horsepower and electronically controlled CVT transmission, which was well designed and quiet for interior passengers unlike other CVTs.

NUTS & BOLTS
- **MSRP**: $45,550
- **MPG**: 42 city / 41 highway / 41.0 as tested
- **As Tested**: $50,020

Wrapped in Supersonic Red, which is one of nine color options available, the Crown rides on 19-inch wheels with 21-inch alternatives as an upgrade. The interior offered a 12.3 inch multimedia infotainment screen with touch-screen and JBL 11-speaker stereo system. SiriusXM, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay were standard. Heated and ventilated seats as well as heated rear seats were also just a few of the standard features noticed on our enjoyable Crown tester.

The 2023 Toyota Crown.
MARC GRASSO/BOSTON HERALD

As mentioned earlier, the exterior curvatures are certainly futuristic and one that takes some getting used too. As a Polestar lover myself, the exterior was attractive and one that was familiar. Although Polestar is 100% electric, it was good to see the Crown as a hybrid with similar curvatures confirming the wave of the future is here and rear seat comfort is somewhat of a priority.

Toyota does one of the best jobs in developing mass-market production while creating reliable and marketable vehicles for all consumers. With a fleet as large as Toyota, there is no secret they have what it takes to get the Crown to be one of the most popular mid-size luxury vehicles in the consumer market. With adding Lexus to the conversation, will there be a Crown shaped sedan coming to that market? Guess we will wait and find out.

Don't let car grant unwanted access to your home

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Q: You might remind readers that leaving their car unlocked outside their house may be like leaving the keys to their house in the car. A thief can either use the garage door remote or, better yet, the button that is programmed in the car to open the garage door. Some people forget about the door opener feature.

J.C., Chicago

A: Thanks for the heads-up. Coincidentally, that thought crossed my mind last week as I was pairing the HomeLink system in my pickup truck to a new garage door opener.

■■■

Q: In a recent column someone talked about condensation on the interior face of the headlamps on a 2018 Dodge Journey. I had that problem with my 2010 Cadillac SRX. About two years I got a recall notice on the headlamps. I had to pay upfront, but they reimbursed me. Not cheap. $1,400. Problem solved. Check for a bulletin on that model.

P.S. Park Ridge, Illinois

A: Headlamps seem to cause more headaches than a hangover. Not only do they cloud over, but they also cloud up inside from moisture. All too often, the final solution for moisture is replacing the headlight pot, or assembly. Yes, it may be costly. The plastic cover, or lens, is heat-bonded to the pot with butyl rope and heat, making lens replacement impossible.

■■■

Q: I have a quick and easy solution on the condensation issue on the Dodge headlamp. It happened to me, and this is how I solved it: Take the headlamp out and dry it out completely. Then apply a bead of silicone caulk around the entire perimeter of the headlamp. Worked for me!

L.G., Naperville, Illinois

A: Of course, there had to be a hack. Thanks.

■■■

Q: In May, my 2007 Prius' dashboard went blank, and the motor would not turn off. I Googled the problem and got simple instructions on how to shut the car off myself. Further Google search led me to what I believe to be the problem, a faulty "combination meter." It's an expensive repair. Question: Can I drive the car, without harming it, and just shut the car off myself when this happens?

C.K., Enfield, Connecticut

A: I can't green-flag that choice. One of the most common problems is running out of gas since everything on the display is dark. And sure, you can use your GPS device (phone or other) to see your speed, but that's inconvenient, distracting and likely to earn you a ticket. Do you play the lottery?

■■■

Q: I have written to you in the past regarding our car and have always been well-satisfied with your replies. We have a 2014 Kia Soul Plus. For some time now, the rear doors and tailgate are intermittently locked when parking the car. I have mentioned this to the dealer on two occasions when taking the car in for service, with just a baffled look and nothing done. Can you tell me if this is something the dealer should be able to rectify, or is it something that just happens, and there is no explanation for it? It is more of an annoying inconvenience, but I wonder if it can migrate to the other doors and leave us locked out of the car?

B.P., Las Vegas

A: Automatic locking is supposed to be a safety feature. When you remove the key from the ignition, the 20- to 30-second countdown begins, even if you leave the key on your seat—sometimes. Yes, all doors may automatically lock, so keep your key in your pocket. Your dealer should be able to go into the system setup and switch off this "feature."

Life & Style

One image, one face, one American moment: The Donald Trump mug shot

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A camera clicks. In a fraction of a second, the shutter opens and then closes, freezing forever the image in front of it.

When the camera shutter blinked inside an Atlanta jail on Thursday, it both created and documented a tiny inflection point in American life. Captured for posterity, there was a former president of the United States, for the first time in history, under arrest and captured in the sort of frame more commonly associated with drug dealers or drunken drivers. The trappings of power gone, for that split second.

Left behind: an enduring image that will appear in history books long after Donald Trump is gone.

"It will be forever part of the iconography of being alive in this time," said Marty Kaplan, a professor at the University of Southern California Annenberg School of Communications.

In the photo, Trump confronts the camera in front of a bland gray backdrop, his eyes meeting the lens in an intense glare. He's wearing a blue suit, white shirt and red tie, his shoulders squared, his head tilted slightly toward the camera. The sheriff's logo has been digitally added above his right shoulder.

Some of the 18 others charged with him in Georgia smiled in their booking photos like they were posing for a yearbook. Not Trump. His defiance is palpable, as if he's staring down a nemesis through the lens.

"It is not a comfortable feeling—especially when you've done nothing wrong," he later told Fox News Digital about the moment.

NOT LIKE ANY OTHER PHOTOGRAPH

Trump facing charges is by now a familiar sight of 2023 to Americans who watched him stand before a judge in a New York courtroom or saw watercolor sketches from the inside of federal courthouses in Miami and Washington, where cameras aren't allowed.

This is different.

As Anderson Cooper put it on CNN: "The former president of the United States has an inmate number." P01135809, to be exact. But until he surrendered to face charges of trying to steal the 2020 election in Georgia, his fourth indictment this year, he avoided having to pose for the iconic booking photo like millions accused of crimes before him.

AP

This booking photo provided by Fulton County Sheriff's Office, shows former President Donald Trump on Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023, after he surrendered and was booked at the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta.

Never mind that Trump, like all Americans, is innocent until proven guilty in court; the mug shot, and all it connotes, packs an extra emotional and cultural punch.

A mug shot is a visceral representation of the criminal justice system, a symbol of lost freedom. It permanently memorializes one of the worst days of a person's life, a moment not meant for a scrapbook. It must be particularly foreign to a man born into privilege, who famously loves to be in control, who is highly attentive to his image and who rose to be the most powerful figure in the world.

"'Indictment' is a sort of bloodless word. And words are pale compared to images," said Kaplan, a former speechwriter for Vice President Walter Mondale and Hollywood screenwriter. "A mug shot is a genre. Its frame is, 'This is a deer caught in the headlights. This is the crook being nailed.' It's the walk of shame moment."

Not even President Joe Biden, who otherwise has declined to talk about his predecessor's legal problems, could resist remarking on the mugshot. "Handsome guy," he said sarcastically.

HE IS ALREADY LEVERAGING THE MOMENT

Trump is unlikely to treat the mug shot as a moment of shame as he seeks a second term in the White House while fighting criminal charges in four jurisdictions. His campaign has reported a spike in contributions each time he's been indicted.

And the imagery itself? Trump hasn't shied away from it. In fact, his campaign concocted one long before it became real.

Months before he was photographed in Georgia on Thursday evening, his campaign used the prospect of a mug shot as a fundraising opportunity. For $36, anyone can buy a T-shirt with a fake booking photo of Trump and the words "not guilty." Dozens of similar designs are available to purchase online, including many that appeal to Trump's critics.

'Gran Turismo' and 'Barbie' are neck-and-neck at the box office

NEW YORK (AP)—"Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story" and "Barbie" are in a dead heat for the box-office crown, with the video game adaptation just edging Greta Gerwig's pop sensation, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Sony Pictures reported that "Gran Turismo" opened with $17.3 million over the weekend, while Warner Bros. estimated that "Barbie," in its sixth week of release, took in $17.1 million. Those totals could change when final ticket sales are counted Monday.

Due to a few wrinkles, it's all but certain that "Barbie" sold more tickets than any other movie Friday through Sunday, even if "Gran Turismo" is claiming the checker flag.

One reason: It was an usual weekend in multiplexes. U.S. movie theaters held the second annual National Cinema Day on Sunday, with $4 tickets to all films and showtimes at nearly all of the country's theaters.

"Barbie" was expected to be easily the top draw during the discounted day, with a particular boost coming from repeat viewings. With a domestic total of $594.8 million in ticket sales, "Barbie" has passed "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" ($574 million) to become the year's biggest domestic hit. With $1.34 billion worldwide, "Barbie" will also soon surpass the leading $1.35 million worldwide tally of "Mario."

National Cinema Day is meant to lure moviegoers to theaters during a typically slow period—and recoup the lost ticket revenue by selling a lot of popcorn. Last year's event drew 8.1 million moviegoers, making it the busiest day of the year in theaters. Warner Bros. estimated that "Barbie" would gross $7.8 million on Sunday, which would mean almost 2 million people saw the film that day.

So what was the top movie in theaters this weekend?

"Barbie," says Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros. "Without any question."

Though "Barbie" is the weekend's top draw, "Gran Turismo" has a slight—and somewhat debatable—edge in gross earnings. In its weekend totals for "Gran Turismo," Sony is also factoring in a hefty $3.9 million from preview screenings held before Thursday, along with $1.4 million in Thursday previews. Such accounting, while common practice for Hollywood, has stretched the definition of an opening "weekend."

- 1. "Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story," $17.3 million.
- 2. "Barbie," $17.1 million.
- 3. "Blue Beetle," $12.8 million.
- 4. "Oppenheimer," $9 million.
- 5. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem," $6.1 million.
- 6. "Meg 2: The Trench," $5.1 million.
- 7. "Strays," $4.7 million.
- 8. "Retribution," $3.3 million.
- 9. "The Hill," $2.5 million.
- 10. "Haunted Mansion," $2.1 million

Woman cuts grandparents' access to their grandson

DEAR ABBY: I have had a wonderful relationship with my only grandson for nine years. Since I retired, he visits every other weekend, which makes me so happy. He has autism and didn't speak for the first six years, but now he talks constantly. It's wonderful. I'm very close to my son as well.

I guess you know what's coming: My daughter-in-law cut my grandchild out of my life four months ago. She says he was molested in my care by my husband. I took my husband of 13 years, who has never been alone with my grandson, ever, to the police station. He passed all lie detector tests, and the police said they believe my husband.

My grandson didn't say a word; only my DIL spoke. I had CPS come out and they did a thorough investigation. They said that, in their opinion, she was making this up. She hasn't spoken to her family in 12 years. She cuts everyone off if they upset her.

My grandson needs me. What can I do? My son says if I move and live next door to them, I can see him every day. But, I don't believe that would last either. I'm sure she would just come up with something else. Any ideas?

ACHING HEART IN TEXAS

DEAR ACHING HEART: If your son is suggesting that you move next door—presumably without your husband—it is a nonstarter. The person who could fix this is your son. Because the accusation your DIL made was groundless, your son should insist you have visitation with your grandson. However, if that doesn't happen, then remember Texas is a state in which grandparents DO have some rights. Therefore, it may benefit you to discuss this matter with an attorney specializing in family law.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to the same woman for 35 years. She has been an alcoholic for the last 20. She has done four stints in rehab facilities. She comes out healthy for a while, then starts drinking again. She hasn't yet realized that she can't drink one glass of wine and stop there. It seems to get worse each time. We work together, and I have had to take all her hours away because she's not reliable. I'm holding on to our job and taking care of my aging parents.

I went to my first Al-Anon meeting. It was OK, but only a few of the people in the room were male. Throwing a man out is a lot easier than throwing a woman out. I think about leaving her all the time, but there are risks to my house, our dog and even the general public if I leave her alone. Is there any solution for someone like me?

AT WITS' END IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR AT WITS' END: Talk to a family law attorney and ask what your options are. You cannot save your wife from herself or her addiction. When she picks up that glass, she has already made a choice, and it is NOT your marriage or your partnership. She will not become responsible for herself unless she is forced to be. By staying with her, you are enabling her. I apologize if this seems harsh, but it is the truth.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OK, BIKE. LISTEN UP. I DON'T LIKE YOU AND YOU DON'T LIKE ME.
BUT I'VE GOT THE TOOLS TO REDUCE YOU TO A PILE OF PIPES, SPROCKETS, AND BALL BEARINGS! DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER?
MAAAAA
MAYBE ALTOGETHER TOO WELL.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, I WAS PLAYING IN THE YARD AND I THINK I FOUND A FOSSIL.
SERIOUSLY? LET ME SEE.
UM... I THINK THOSE ARE CHICKEN WING BONES.
COULD IT BE A PREHISTORIC CHICKEN WING?
NO. SMELL THE TERIYAKI? THIS IS FROM LAST THURSDAY.
8.29

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Billion (Pref.)
5 Expert
8 Beanies
12 Six-sided state
13 Very long time
14 Skin care brand
15 Large medicinal measure
17 Educator Horace
18 Downing St. VIPs
19 Away from WSW
20 Feel
21 Inlet
22 Tampa Bay NFLer
23 Venomous viper
26 Mexican chili pepper
30 Motown genre
31 Cotillion celeb
32 Poet Khayyam
33 Lacking depth
35 Plus
36 Actor McShane
37 "Hail, Caesar!"
38 Lenient treatment
41 Season opener?
42 Manx, for one
45 Vivacity
46 Highly sweet sugar
48 Intends
49 Ad- — (improvise)
50 Western ski resort
51 Terrier type
52 Hollywood's Thurman
53 Release money

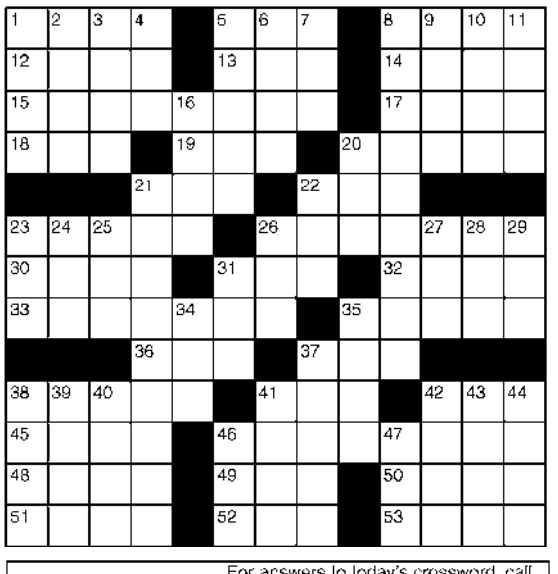
DOWN

1 Fictional Forrest
2 Detail
3 Jokes
4 "Caught ya!"
5 State flower of Indiana
6 American Beauty, e.g.
7 Inseparable
8 Almost make it
9 Country singer Jackson
10 Skillets
11 "Auld Lang —"
16 Beloved
20 Hero sandwich
21 Warlike
22 Short do
23 Ninny
24 "What was I thinking?"
25 Singer Lipa
26 Church seat
27 Mornings (Abbr.)
28 Scot's denial
29 Scrap
31 Mafia boss
34 Non-clerical
35 Opposite of "sans"
37 Island off Venezuela
38 New corp. hires
39 Actor Estrada
40 Frost-covered
41 Prudish
42 Pop flavor
43 Sparkling Italian wine
44 Blue shade
46 Winter bug
47 Indent key

Solution time: 22 mins.

R	D	A			I	G	A		S	P	E	D
O	I	L	S		L	O	P		E	L	L	E
O	D	I	E		L	A	N		L	Y	M	E
K	O	A	I	A		I	F	A	F			
			F	R	A		A	M	I	D	S	T
S	N	O	R	K	E	L		S	E	R	T	A
T	I	M	E		R	O	D		S	N	U	G
A	T	A	L	L		B	U	T	T	O	N	S
B	E	N	I	C	E		O	B	I			
			A	D	D	S		S	C	O	W	L
D	A	W	N		I	O	N		K	A	R	A
I	M	A	C		C	A	B		S	K	I	T
P	A	N	E		T	R	A		S	T	S	

Yesterday's answer 8-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lauren Collins, 37; Lea Michele, 37; Carla Gugino, 52; Rebecca De Mornay, 64.

Happy Birthday: Size up situations, get the facts and act with precision and detail. If you refuse to let your emotions interfere with logic this year, you will ward off taking a costly roller coaster ride. Put changes into play, but first, you must address a budget and use common sense. Good timing is essential if you want to reach your target. Refuse to let temptation and emotional factors lead you astray. Your numbers are 5, 12, 20, 27, 31, 44, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a walk down memory lane and revive an old idea, friendship or activity that can add positive components to your daily routine. Call the shots and make things happen. Do whatever it takes to increase your self-esteem and put your best foot forward. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make a statement and follow through. Show confidence in yourself and what you can bring to the table. Offering a truthful assessment will stop anyone from trying to talk you out of your hard-earned cash. Don't let anyone play on your sympathy. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You have more leverage than you think. Don't stop; question what others say and walk away from demands you don't like. Run the show instead of letting someone take advantage of you. Put your energy into learning, details and finishing what you start. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Proceed into any proposed joint transaction requiring a quick decision or down payment with trepidation. Question what others offer and expect in return. Be smart, take your time and don't be afraid to go it alone. Have confidence in your ability to make wise decisions. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take control when deciding what's best for you. Be wary of anyone using emotional tactics to push you in a problematic, costly or questionable direction. Put your energy into building a stronger, healthier self and gravitate toward like-minded individuals. Put yourself first. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Ponder over details until you feel comfortable with the results. Use intelligence when dealing with outside influences or pursuing new information that can transform your life or how you do things. Dedicate more time and effort to how you use your cash and skills. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Surround yourself with people who point you in a healthy and profitable direction. Say no to temptation and over-the-top suggestions. Socialize and network with those who care more about health and well-being. Pay attention to tips that improve your looks and feelings. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Think before you respond. Overreacting will result in changes that are emotionally damaging to a meaningful relationship. Concentrate on creativity and using your imagination to bring about stability and security. Walk away from chaos and people who set a poor example. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Speak kindly, be patient and protect your privacy. Keep life simple, moderate and honest. Stick to what you know, and respond in good faith and with compassion. Pay attention to how you feel, and curb spending, binge eating and drinking. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Develop a detailed plan before moving. A lifestyle change will positively impact your financial well-being; however, it's likely to create a problem with someone in your life who tends to take advantage of you or your generosity. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Have faith in your intuition and ability to respond, but don't rule out that the information you receive may be exaggerated. Get the facts before you act or share what you hear. A new look will draw compliments, and romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* It's up to you to make changes if something is holding you back. Tidy up loose ends and explore the available possibilities. Leave nothing to chance or in someone else's hands. Use your intelligence to devise a plan that delivers. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are astute, imaginative and giving. You are energetic and intriguing.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		2	9	8				
	8	7			5		9	
	1	6	3			5		
8	7	9		5			6	
	5				4			9
	4	1		2	9		3	5
	2	8			6	3		
		4				2		6
1	6				2			7

Difficulty: ★★ 8/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	7	2	5	8	1	9	6	3
3	8	6	9	7	4	2	1	5
1	5	9	3	2	6	7	8	4
9	4	7	6	1	8	5	3	2
6	1	5	2	3	7	4	9	8
8	2	3	4	9	5	6	7	1
7	6	4	1	5	3	8	2	9
2	3	8	7	4	9	1	5	6
5	9	1	8	6	2	3	4	7

Difficulty: ★ 8/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DIGESTION PHYSIOLOGY **Solution: 12 letters**

M	S	E	M	Y	Z	N	E	T	O	N	G	U	E	H
C	E	T	E	T	I	T	E	P	P	A	S	S	B	T
S	A	T	N	M	Y	I	R	W	D	B	O	D	Y	U
A	E	P	A	E	D	G	B	A	G	E	I	I	H	O
L	N	T	I	B	I	R	R	T	L	C	X	P	O	M
I	I	C	A	L	O	R	I	E	A	N	M	I	R	A
V	T	E	S	S	L	L	T	R	N	I	I	L	M	E
A	S	T	B	U	P	A	I	U	D	E	N	S	O	R
N	E	A	S	U	G	A	R	S	N	T	E	E	N	T
A	T	R	O	R	G	A	N	Y	M	O	R	T	E	S
T	N	D	E	A	W	E	H	C	B	R	A	I	N	D
O	I	Y	K	I	N	G	D	P	R	P	L	B	S	O
M	C	H	E	M	I	C	A	L	O	E	S	T	O	O
Y	W	N	O	I	T	E	R	C	E	Ⓢ	Ⓐ	Ⓕ	Ⓔ	L
S	T	O	M	A	C	H	U	R	N	F	E	S	N	B

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Absorb, Acid, Anatomy, Appetite, Bites, Bloodstream, Body, Brain, Calorie, Capillary, Chemical, Chew, Churn, Diet, Energy, Enzymes, Esophagus, Fats, Gland, Hormone, Hydrate, Intestine, Lipids, Metabolism, Minerals, Mixed, Mouth, Nutrients, Organ, Pancreas, Pass, Protein, Safe, Saliva, Secretion, Stomach, Sugar, Tongue, Vitamin, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Boots

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 73, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

France out; Latvia, Germany, Montenegro, Canada, Lithuania reach Round 2

AP

Latvia players celebrate after defeating France in their Basketball World Cup group H match at the Indonesia Arena stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia, Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—France came to the World Cup planning to win gold. It won't even make the second round, an absolutely stunning development for the reigning Olympic silver medalists.

Latvia got 22 points from Arturs Zagars and shocked France 88-86 Sunday night in a Group H game at Jakarta, Indonesia. The result sent Latvia and Canada through to the second round, and meant France—which won the bronze at the last two World Cups—cannot finish better than 17th place this year.

"We let a lot of people down, ourselves first," French forward Nicolas Batum said.

Rolands Smits added 20 points and Davis Bertans had 15 points, as Latvia rallied from a 13-point deficit. It took the lead for the first time with 37.7 seconds left and held on when Sylvain Francisco missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"Congrats to Latvia," Batum said. "They earned it. They deserved it."

Evan Fournier had 27 points for France, which lost to Canada in its opener.

The momentum swung in the middle of the fourth quarter when France playmaker Nando de Colo was ejected after receiving his second unsportsmanlike foul.

Latvia and Canada will play for Group H's top spot on Tuesday.

GROUP H
CANADA 128, LEBANON 73

At Jakarta, RJ Barrett scored 17 points as Canada overpowered Lebanon to continue its perfect start.

Trae Bell-Haynes added 15 points and eight assists for Canada (2-0), which opened with an impressive 95-65 win over France. Canada set a senior men's national team record for points—it scored 126 against Jordan at the World Cup four years ago—and set a tournament record with 44 assists.

FIBA began keeping assist records in 1984.

After recording 27 points in his World Cup debut, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 12 points, five rebounds and five assists in 17 minutes. Canada used 11 players and nine reached double figures; the others were Melvin Ejim (13), Kelly Olynyk (12), Zach Edey (12), Nickeil Alexander-Walker (12), Kyle Anderson (10) and Dillon Brooks (10).

Canada shot 71%, and played without Lu Dort, who was held out with soreness. Former NBA player Omari Spellman led Lebanon with 16 points.

Canada plays Latvia on Tuesday in its final group game, while Lebanon (0-2) faces France.

GROUP A
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 87, ITALY 82

At Manila, Karl-Anthony Towns and Andres Feliz each scored 24 points, and the Dominican Republic connected on 16 3-pointers to beat Italy and move to the brink of the second round.

Feliz had seven of those 3s for the winners (2-0). Towns finished with 11 rebounds and Jean Montero had 12 points, nine assists, six rebounds and three steals.

"Getting the job done," Towns said. "I think we did a great job and found a way to win. Andres and everybody down the line was amazing. This was a great team win."

A win over Angola on Tuesday would clinch a second-round trip for the Dominican Republic. The team could lose that game and still advance, based on other results.

Italy (1-1) led 12-0 to open the game but led only 39-38 at the half — and lost coach Gianmarco Pozzecco to a second-quarter ejection after he picked up his second technical foul.

The game changed entirely in the third; the Dominican Republic outscored Italy 31-17 in those 10 minutes, then held off a rally in the fourth.

Marco Spissu led Italy with 17 points, while Simone Fontecchio scored 13, Giampaolo Ricco had 12 and Achille Polonara added 10.

Italy remains alive in the race for the second round and plays the Philippines to end group play on Tuesday. It's a must-win for the Philippines to have any chance.

"It's going to be exciting," Italy's Luigi Datome said. "It's going to be a nice atmosphere and all the players like to play in a nice atmosphere."

GROUP A
ANGOLA 80, PHILIPPINES 70

At Manila, Gerson Goncalves scored 17 points, Gerson Domingos added 15 and Angola erased an 11-point deficit to beat the Philippines.

Bruno Fernando scored 14 for Angola (1-1), which trailed 28-17 early in the second quarter -- and then outscored the hosts 56-29 over the next 24 minutes.

Even with the loss, the Philippines (0-2) remains alive in the race for a second-round spot. It must beat Italy Tuesday and get some help.

Jordan Clarkson had 21 points for the Philippines.

GROUP E
GERMANY 85, AUSTRALIA 82

At Okinawa, Dennis Schroder scored 30 points and added eight assists for Germany (2-0). The win, combined with Japan's win over Finland later Sunday, sent Germany to the second round.

Maodo Lo scored 20 for Germany, which trailed by four entering the final quarter but opened it on a 10-0 run.

Australia tied the game twice in the fourth. Both times, Schroder had an immediate answer to reclaim the lead. His basket with 46 seconds left put Germany ahead for good.

Patty Mills, as he did in the first game, led Australia with 21 points, five rebounds and six assists. Matisse Thybulle had 17 for Australia, which was only 9 for 16 from the foul line.

Germany played without Franz Wagner, who sat with an ankle injury.

Australia faces Japan—the home team in the group—on Tuesday, with the winner moving to the second round. Germany finishes group play against Finland.

GROUP E
JAPAN 98, FINLAND 88

At Okinawa, Joshua Hawkinson scored 28 points for Japan (1-1) as it put together an overwhelming fourth quarter to beat Finland (0-2) and eliminate the Finns from knockout-stage contention.

Japan outscored Finland 38-15 in the final 10:03, erasing what was a 13-point deficit. Yuki Kawamura scored 25 for Japan, including a three-point play with 4:35 left that gave the hosts the lead for good. He added a 3-pointer about 40 seconds later and Japan pulled away.

Lauri Markkanen topped Finland with 27 points and 12 rebounds.

GROUP D
MONTENEGRO 89, EGYPT 74

At Manila, Nikola Vucevic had 16 points and seven rebounds and Montenegro (2-0) had little trouble with Egypt.

Nikola Ivanovic scored 15 for Montenegro, while Kendrick Perry scored 11 and Vladimir Mihailovic and Dino Radoncic finished with 10 apiece.

Ehab Amin led all scorers with 26 points for Egypt (0-2), while Anas Mahmoud and Patrick Gardner each finished with 13.

A major difference was points off turnovers: Montenegro turned Egypt's 22 giveaways into 30 points, while Egypt managed 17 points off Montenegro's 16 turnovers.

Montenegro plays Lithuania on Tuesday—both teams are going to the second round, and Tuesday will only decide who wins the group—while Egypt will take on Mexico.

GROUP D
LITHUANIA 96, MEXICO 66

At Manila, Jonas Valanciunas had 15 points and 10 rebounds, Rokas Jokubaitis added 15 points and Lithuania (2-0) rolled into the second round.

Mindaugas Kuzminskas scored 14 for the winners, while Donatas Motiejunas and Ignas Brazdeikis each scored 10.

Gabriel Giron scored 13 for Mexico (0-2). Israel Gutierrez, Orlando Mendez and Pako Cruz had 10 apiece.

US is learning to roll with the hits at the Basketball World Cup

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—It was late in the first quarter of the U.S. team's opener at the FIBA World Cup. Austin Reaves was in transition and tossed a lob to Cam Johnson, who got sandwiched in midair by two New Zealand defenders and took a hard fall.

Steve Kerr expected such plays to happen.

The U.S. coach knows that every opponent awaiting the Americans in this tournament will likely be very aggressive, hoping that tactic works to derail the only team in the World Cup with a roster composed entirely of NBA players. New Zealand tried; the U.S. shook off a slow start to win 99-72 and now faces Greece on Monday.

"I know everybody walked in this morning a little frustrated," Kerr said Sunday as the Americans got loose for practice. "But we won by 27 points. And so, that's the lesson. In FIBA, it's so physical. Everybody is going to try to beat the crap out of us because that's their best chance to beat us."

It's an adjustment for the Americans, but so far, so good.

"We understood that this would be part of the process," Johnson said.

It wasn't quite like that in the five exhibition games the Americans played on their way to the World Cup because, well, they were just exhibitions. A game against Spain earlier this month against the reigning World Cup winners and FIBA's No. 1-ranked team— the U.S. is ranked No. 2 — got physical at times, but that was to be expected and nothing got out of hand.

But in the World Cup, the stakes are higher and so is the intensity. Johnson stayed down for a few seconds after the big hit, then made his way to his feet uninjured. He said Sunday that he was fine and didn't show any aftereffects.

"That's their way of playing, that's their way of trying to stay in the game and whatnot," Johnson said. "It's definitely different than how we've been playing, but we're all capable of adjusting and figuring it out. I think the thing that's important for us to keep in mind is what's the legal limit of our physicality. You can go out there and fight and throw punches and all that all game, but if you get three, four quick fouls, your game is basically over."

Kerr — as Gregg Popovich did before him as the U.S. coach, and as Mike Krzyzewski did before that — finds himself reminding his team often about how the FIBA game isn't the NBA game. It's called differently and defenders can be much more aggressive.

Kerr explains it to players like this: In the NBA, rules lean toward helping scoring, while in FIBA it's the opposite. The solution, he says, is to weather the storms, rely on depth and keep cool.

So far, it's working.

"Our threat is that we have 12 guys who are ready to make a great four- or five-minute push," Kerr said. "And we keep coming with another wave and another wave, another wave. So, teams can be physical with us, but they have to do that for 40 minutes. As long as our guys stay composed and poised like they did (Saturday), then we're going to be tough to beat and I think that's the lesson here early on."

Mariners take AL West lead, beat Royals behind Castillo's 7 shutout innings

SEATTLE (AP) — Luis Castillo pitched seven shutout innings and the Seattle Mariners grabbed sole possession of first place in the AL West, beating the Kansas City Royals 3-2 on Sunday to complete a three-game sweep.

Teoscar Hernández and Julio Rodríguez homered as Seattle won for the 11th time in 12 games. The Mariners also improved to a major league-best 36-14 since July 1 for their best 50-game stretch since they also went 36-14 from April 23-June 18, 2003.

Seattle (74-56) and Texas were tied for the AL West lead coming into the day, but the Rangers lost 7-6 to the Twins. Seattle trailed Texas by 7 1/2 games on Aug. 15.

It's the latest the Mariners have had sole possession of first in a season since Aug. 24, 2003.

"We have a lot of baseball to go," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "There's no question about it. But we have played extremely well, really since the first of July. And it's a testament to our players. They just keep their head down and focus on getting better."

Castillo (11-7) allowed one hit, struck out six and walked one in his fourth consecutive win. The All-Star right-hander retired his last 13 batters.

"It's been awesome to watch him go out and do it every fifth day," Servais said. "And today he was as sharp as he's been in quite some time. When your starting pitching is that consistent, you're gonna be in a lot of games."

Hernández put Seattle in front with his third homer in the past two games, hitting a 433-foot solo shot to center off rookie Alec Marsh (0-7) in the second inning. It was his 22nd homer of the season.

Rodríguez also went deep for the second straight day, lining a two-run shot to left-center in the fifth to make it 3-0. It was his 23rd of the season.

Kansas City's Nelson Velázquez cut it to 3-2 with a two-run homer off Gabe Speier in the eighth. It was Velázquez's eighth homer.

The Royals put runners on second and third with two outs in the inning, but Justin Topa struck out Salvador Perez to preserve the one-run lead. Andrés Muñoz struck out the side in the ninth for his 10th save.

"You can feel the positivity and the good vibes here," Castillo said. "It's a team that just wants to go out there and win."

Marsh allowed three runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings. He struck out nine in his seventh career start.

Kansas City lost for the 10th time in 12 games. Nine of its past 10 losses are by two runs or fewer.

"Super frustrating series," Royals manager Matt Quatraro said. "Really a frustrating road trip. Played better than what the results ended up."

AP

Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Luis Castillo walks off the field after pitching through the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals, Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023, in Seattle.

TWINS 7, RANGERS 6, 13 INNINGS

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Jonathan Hernández (1-2) walked three batters in the 13th inning, among a season-high 10 walks by Texas pitchers. The Rangers' only other day without a share of the lead was after play on April 8.

Texas wasted a 5-0 lead built with Jonah Heim's grand slam and J.P. Martinez solo homer, and Royce Lewis started Minnesota's comeback with a fourth-inning slam. Donovan Solano hit a tying single in the ninth against Aroldis Chapman.

Dylan Floro (5-6) got three straight outs after a leadoff walk in the 13th for Minnesota, which leads the AL Central by six games.

GIANTS 8, BRAVES 5

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Patrick Bailey hit a tiebreaking three-run double in the fifth inning, fellow rookie Casey Schmitt hit his first homer since in 3 1/2 months, and San Francisco avoided a three-game sweep.

The Giants won for just the sixth time in their last 20 games to slow a slide that has dropped them out of a wild card position after they once held the top spot.

Atlanta's Marcell Ozuna hit his 29th home run to break a tie with Ronald Acuña Jr. for second-most on the team behind Matt Olson (30).

Reliever Scott Alexander (7-2) pitched 1 1/3 innings to pick up the win. Tyler Rogers and Taylor Rogers got the next seven outs, and Camilo Doval pitched a perfect ninth for his 34th save — snapping a streak of four consecutive blown chances.

Braves starter Jared Shuster (4-3) allowed four runs and struck out three in 4 2/3 innings.

ASTROS 17, TIGERS 4

HOUSTON (AP)—Justin Verlander (10-6) struck out seven and allowed two hits over five scoreless innings against his first team and got his 254th win.

Kyle Tucker hit his 26th homer in the third against Alex Faedo (2-5). Mauricio Dubon and Martin Maldonado hit back-to-back homers off Tyler Holton.

Houston added seven runs in the eighth inning on Jeremy Pena's three-run triple off Andrew Vasquez and Yainer Diaz's two-run homer on a 63 mph fastball from backup catcher Carson Kelly.

Miguel Cabrera hit his 510th homer, a three-run drive in the eighth.

DODGERS 7, RED SOX 4

BOSTON (AP)—Mookie Betts capped his return to Boston with a second straight three-hit game, hitting a two-run homer against the team he led to the 2018 World Series title.

Playing in Boston for the first time as a Red Sox opponent, Betts collected seven hits and a series of standing ovations over the three-game set.

Freddie Freeman also had three hits, and James Outman homered to help the Dodgers improve to 21-4 in August. Gavin Stone (1-0) earned his first career victory. Tanner Houck (3-8) lost his eighth straight decision. Evan Phillips pitched the ninth for his 21st save.

RAYS 7, YANKEES 4

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Brandon Lowe homered and drove in four runs, and New York (62-68) dropped a season-high six games under .500.

Benches and bullpens emptied twice in the eighth inning after one of five hit batters in the game but no punches were thrown, and the Yankees lost their eighth straight series rubber game,

Tampa Bay rallied from a 4-2 deficit in the sixth when Harold Ramírez flared a bases-loaded, two-out single to right off Ian Hamilton (2-2) and Lowe followed with a two-run single against Wandy Peralta.

Zach Littell (3-4) allowed four runs and four hits in six innings, and Jason Adam worked the ninth for his 12th save.

METS 3, ANGELS 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Pete Alonso hit a tying double in the eighth inning and Rafael Ortega a winning single in the ninth off Reynaldo López (2-7) as New York stopped a four-game losing streak.

The Angels' Shohei Ohtani went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts and was 3 for 9 with three runs, two steals and an RBI in his first series since the Angels said he tore a ligament in his right elbow while pitching on Wednesday.

Adam Ottavino (1-4) struck out one in a perfect ninth.

ROCKIES 4, ORIOLES 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Hunter Goodman had two hits and RBI, scoring the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning of his major league debut as Colorado stopped a six-game losing streak.

Goodman hit .371 with nine and 33 RBIs in 15 games at Triple-A after he was promoted. The 23-year-old first baseman went 2 for 4. He hit an RBI single off Ryan Flaherty in the sixth for a 3-1 lead and reached on an infield single against Yennier Cano (1-3) leading off the ninth and scored on Elias Díaz's groundout.

Justin Lawrence (4-6) got the final four outs.

BREWERS 10, PADRES 6

MILWAUKEE (AP)—William Contreras homered and doubled, Sal Frelick drove in three runs and Milwaukee won its eighth straight game. The Brewers took the lead for good in a seven-run sixth inning that included five walks.

Milwaukee has a four-game NL Central lead over the second-place Cubs heading into a three-game series beginning Monday at Wrigley Field.

Carlos Santana's bases-loaded walk forced in the go-ahead run against Steven Wilson (1-2). Bryse Wilson (6-0) pitched four shutout innings.

CUBS 10, PIRATES 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Cody Bellinger had three hits and five RBIs, raising his total to 53 since July 1 and 75 this season. Bellinger singled in Hoerner in the first inning. He doubled home two more runs in the fifth for a 5-1 lead. The 2019 NL MVP added another two-run double in the ninth.

Nico Hoerner had three hits and scored three times, helping Chicago close out a 5-2 trip. Jeimer Candelario homered and drove in three runs.

Javier Assad (3-2) struck out seven in seven innings. Bailey Falter (1-8) was tagged for six runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings. The Pirates have lost nine of 10 against the Cubs this year.

PHILLIES 3, CARDINALS 0

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Aaron Nola (12-8) allowed one hit and struck out nine in seven innings, Kyle Schwarber homered on the first pitch of the game from Drew Rom (0-2) and NL wild-card leading Philadelphia completed a three-game sweep.

Johan Rojas doubled among his three hits and Bryce Harper hit an RBI single for the defending NL champion Phillies, who outscored the Cardinals 22-3 in the series.

Craig Kimbrel completed a two-hit shutout with his 20th save, sending St. Louis to its ninth loss in 11 games.

GUARDIANS 10, BLUE JAYS 7, 11 INNINGS

TORONTO (AP)—Kole Calhoun hit a tiebreaking double in the 11th off Jay Jackson (3-1), and José Ramirez and Ramón Laureano hit two-run home runs.

Davis Schneider and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit two-run home runs, and George Springer added a solo shot for Toronto, which has lost four of its last five.

Emmanuel Clase (2-7) got the final five outs for the Guardians.

MARLINS 2, NATIONALS 1

MIAMI (AP)—Jorge Soler hit his 35th homer, a two-run drive in the third against Trevor Williams (6-8) after a leadoff single by Luis Arraez, whose .350 batting average tops the major leagues.

Bryan Hoeing (2-2) pitched four-plus innings of one-run ball. Tanner Scott got his third save when Jacob Young hit a game-ending double-play grounder with two on.

Dominic Smith had an RBI groundout in the third.

WHITE SOX 6, ATHLETICS 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Mike Clevinger (6-6) struck out 10 in seven innings, his 13th career double-digit strikeout game.

Yoán Moncada went 4 for 4 with two doubles for Chicago, and Tim Anderson, Andrew Benintendi and Andrew Vaughn each had two hits.

Oakland (38-93) is on pace to finish 47-115, the franchise's most losses since the 1916 Philadelphia A's went 36-117, Paul Blackburn (3-4) allowed four runs in six innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, REDS 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Christian Walker hit a sacrifice fly off Lucas Sims to break a 2-2 tie in the eighth as Arizona took three of four from Cincinnati and remained in the NL'S last wild-card spot, 1 1/2 games ahead of the Reds.

Corbin Carroll walked off Ian Gibaut (8-3) leading off the eighth and stole second. Carroll has 22 homers and 40 steals, joining Tommie Agee (1966), Mitchell Page (1977) and Mike Trout (2012) as 20-40 rookies.

Arizona boosted its lead on Evan Longoria's sacrifice fly and Alek Thomas' RBI single.

Scott McGough (2-7) struck out three in 1 2/3 innings and Ryan Thompson got his first save.

A week after sullying Women's World Cup, Luis Rubiales now an outcast

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)— One week after the president of the Spanish soccer federation kissed a player during the Women's World Cup awards ceremony, his reputation is in tatters and he's out of his job.

Luis Rubiales, whose leadership of Spanish soccer had already been marked by successes tinged with scandal, wrecked his career by offending millions worldwide with his conduct at the final in Sydney, Australia, when he also grabbed his crotch in a victory gesture.

"Rubiales cannot run Spanish soccer again," Spanish minister María Jesús Montero said Sunday, a day after he was provisionally suspended by FIFA for 90 days.

"We had enough of him when he marred the great triumph of women's soccer with his intolerable attitude."

Rubiales was replaced by his vice president Pedro Rocha, who will act as interim chief in his absence. Rocha is considered to be a confidant of Rubiales. Rocha has called an emergency meeting of the soccer federation's regional heads to discuss the crisis on Monday, when women's groups will rally in downtown Madrid in support of forward Jenni Hermoso, who was kissed on the lips by Rubiales after Spain's 1-0 win over England in the final.

FIFA moved against Rubiales after he refused to step down and defiantly told an emergency assembly of his federation on Friday that he was the victim of a "witch hunt" by "false feminists."

AP

The president of the Spanish soccer federation Luis Rubiales speaks during an emergency general assembly meeting in Las Rozas, Friday Aug. 25, 2023.

On a day that will go down as one of the ugliest in Spanish soccer, Rubiales said that Hermoso had consented to the "mutual" kiss. Hermoso replied in two statements to say that was false and that she considered herself the victim of an abuse of power. She also accused the federation of trying to pressure her into supporting Rubiales. The federation hit back by saying she was lying and that it would take legal action against her.

As part of his suspension of Rubiales, FIFA disciplinary judge Jorge Palacio ordered Rubiales and the federation not to contact Hermoso.

Spain's government is also pursuing his permanent removal in Spain's Administrative Court for Sports. The court will meet in the coming week to consider the government's lawsuit for an alleged abuse of power and for allegedly committing acts that tarnished the dignity and decorum of a sporting event. If found guilty, Rubiales could be ruled unfit to hold office.

Spain great Andrés Iniesta, a 2010 World Cup winner, said "after what has happened this week I would like to express my sadness, as a person, as a father of three girls, as a husband and as a soccer player.

"We have had to bear this president who clung to power, didn't admit that his behavior had been unacceptable and was damaging the image of our country and our soccer before the world," Iniesta said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Rubiales' behavior has tarnished not only the greatest feat of Spanish women's soccer, it has also torn apart his federation.

The only public support Rubiales has received came during Friday's general assembly when he was applauded several times by parts of the mostly male crowd, which was made up of regional federation officials, coaches, referees and players from lower divisions.

But his refusal to go quietly led to some resignations from his board, including the vice president in charge of women's soccer. The federation will also keep open its own internal probe into the incident as part of its sexual violence protocol.

Those who applauded his diatribe included women's coach Jorge Vilda—Hermoso's coach—and Spain's men's coach Luis de la Fuente. But once FIFA took down Rubiales, it took only hours for both coaches to issue statements sanctioning their now former boss.

Rubiales is a 46-year-old former player who headed a players' union – which this week joined the chorus demanding his resignation – before he was elected to run the federation in 2018. He has not shied away from controversy since, but has shored up internal support by boosting revenues.

Rubiales made 339,000 euros ($365,000) in 2021 after taxes, for presiding over the federation with a budget of 382 million euros ($412 million). The federation runs Spain's men's and women's national soccer teams and its semi-professional and amateur soccer leagues. It also organizes the referees. The government maintains some oversight of the entity but it cannot name or remove its executives.

Weeks after becoming the most powerful man in Spanish soccer, Rubiales showed he wouldn't tolerate any act that he considered disloyal when he fired the coach of Spain's men's team just two days before its first match at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Julen Lopetegui had just agreed to join Real Madrid after the tournament, but Rubiales felt he had betrayed the national team and dismissed him.

Rubiales revolutionized the Spanish Super Cup in 2019 by expanding it from two to four teams and taking it to Saudi Arabia – now the big draw for top European talent like Cristiano Ronaldo – in exchange for 40 million dollars a year. The clubs and federation loved the cash, but the move was criticized by women's and human rights groups for the regime's treatment of women and minorities. Spanish authorities also scrutinized the deal, and an investigative judge is probing the legality of the Super Cup contracts.

In part, Rubiales was tolerated because he was considered better than his predecessor, Ángel Maria Villar, who was in power for nearly three decades before he ended up behind bars for widespread corruption.

Rubiales increased his hold on power by becoming a vice-president with UEFA, which has remained silent on the scandal. Rubiales was spearheading what promised to be his greatest prize: a joint bid to host the 2030 men's World Cup with Portugal, Morocco and possibly Ukraine.

AN

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Each time I participate, it's an opportunity to learn, grow, and challenge myself. This time around the hot weather was definitely a factor to contend with!"

Leading up to the competition, she said it was just a matter of making adjustments to her warm-up routine and making sure to stay hydrated.

Sapong ran with the fastest sprinters in the world she describes the experience as "definitely one of the most amazing competitions I've ever been to—being able to witness historic performances from the leading female sprinters was an unforgettable and inspirational experience."

She thanked her coach, Elias Rangamar, her teammate, and all her supporters who have stood by her throughout her journey.

"Their unwavering encouragement has played a significant role in my growth. A big thank you to the other Oceania athletes who accompanied me and brought on that extra support during the competition," she said.

She said it is always a source of immense pride for her to represent the CNMI in athletics internationally. "I hope I've made the CNMI proud, and I'll continue to do my best to represent our community in the best way possible. I want to express my deep appreciation to the Northern Marianas Athletics and Oceania Athletics for allowing me this opportunity once more," said Sapong.

She set her personal best in the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon.

Sapong was also CNMI's representative in the 2017 and 2019 World Athletics Championships.

She also competed in two World Indoor Championships in 2016 and broke her 60m PR in the 2018 event with a time of 8.54 seconds.

GREAT

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for another $700; second place of $700 went to *WTF Where's the Fish,* captained by Frank Pangelinan; third place of $500 went to *Atalig* 3 J's, captained by Joseph Atalig; fourth place of $300 went , captained by Edward C. Sablan; and fifth place of $200 went to *Team Sunrisers*, captained by Ray Santos.

The side bet that went to the boat Golden Dream, captained by Frederic Guintu, received $720.

ISLA Association is composed of seasoned anglers who enjoy and appreciate fishing. They aim to promote awareness of the natural resources found in the lagoon, and to employ practical conservation efforts to maintain healthy fish populations.

ISLA Association thanks all their sponsors for their generous donations and support of the derby.

The sponsors of the event were the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor; Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan); Turnkey Solutions; All Star Sporting Goods; Borderline; Fishing Tackle; Bridge Capital LLC.; Peska Tackle; MidPac Napa Auto & Truck Parts; Environmental Services LLC; Ginen Marianas; Saipan Apparel; SP Dancoe & Associates; *Marianas Variety;* RoilSoil; Docomo Pacific; LandMark Realty; House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan); Inas Kitchen; Kets Kitchen; J's Restaurant; Marianas Arsenal; Lanchu'n Jack; Island Image & Motion; Joeten Superstore; Joeten Motors; Atkins Kroll Toyota; Marianas Visitors Authority; MarPac Inc.; Commonwealth Co.; Galaxy; Sushi Spot; Micronesian Marine; 670 Rocksteady Shop; D&Q Distributors; Fresh Factory; Saipan Apparel; The Hookup Dispensary; Herman's Bakery; Poki Yaki; Emma Itibus; Aqua Smith; Triple J Wholesale; Pacific Auto & Lube; True Vale/YCO; Take Care Insurance; Kumoi Farms; Saipan Surf Company; Galuti Club; The Hut; Caravan; Hagu Real; Jonny's Bar & Grill; Ana Roberto; and KKMP.

NMIBF

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a round robin for the regular season, which is set to start on Sept. 18 and end on Nov. 2; the Top 6 teams will advance to the double-elimination rounds for the playoffs, semifinals, and finals.

Each roster is capped at 18, but only 15 players are active per game; players must be working for the company for more than two months; and the company must provide employment verification or rosters signed by the Human Resources department.

The playoffs are scheduled for Nov. 4, with the championship game set for Nov. 16.

All games will take place in the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Besides this league, the NMIBF has a slew of new tournaments that will kickstart in September and last until June 2024, for a whole 10-month basketball calendar in the CNMI.

Specific details and dates of those tournaments will be posted in the future.

France out; Latvia, Germany, Montenegro, Canada, Lithuania reach Round 2.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mariners take AL West lead, beat Royals behind Castillo's 7 shutout innings three-game sweep.

PAGE 18

'An incredible experience' at 4th World Championship

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI sprinter Zarinae Sapong is seen taking off the starting line during a practice session with the official starters of the 2023 World Athletics Championship at the stadium in Budapest, Hungary last Aug. 18.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI sprinter Zarinae Sapong, who completed her 4th World Athletics Championship last Aug. 20 in the 2023 World Athletics Championship in Budapest, Hungary, describes her participation as an "incredible experience."

Sapong came into the event with the hopes of beating her personal best of 12.98 seconds in the 100m, but was just a few seconds off and finished at 13.04.

Although she did not break her record this time around, she did achieve a season's best performance, said the 26-year-old athlete.

"This result serves as motivation to continue working hard, refining my skills, and striving for better results in the future. Looking ahead to the next season, my primary goal is to come out stronger and maintain good health," said Sapong.

When asked how the competition was, she said, "The electric atmosphere in the stadium added to the excitement.

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'Great weather, turnout for 5th ISLA Association Mafuti Derby'

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fishermen are seen heading out of the Smiling Cove Marina for the 5th ISLA Association Mafuti Derby last Saturday morning.

With 44 entries in the 5th ISLA Association Mafuti Derby, it was just in the ballpark of anticipated boats for the derby last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

The derby's organizer, I Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association, and its president, Keith Kintol, said that the weather and event turned out great.

"The event was great. ...We were monitoring a weather system throughout the week—to see if the weather for the boaters would be favorable," he said in an interview after the event.

In the derby, the youth came out to play and fish, so Kintol said they made sure that they were all safe out there. "It was a good day. It was nice and calm in the morning and this afternoon, the wind picked up, but it was manageable," he added.

The first-place prize that went to Edward Diaz and his boat, the *Nibble,r* was $1,000; his crew also won the Mike's Cup for the most total weight

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NMIBF Inter-Gov't/Business Basketball League meeting today

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation would like to remind those interested in joining the upcoming 2023 NMIBF Inter-Government/Business Basketball League, of a meeting today, Tuesday, 5pm, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMIBF president James Lee said the maximum number of teams for the league is 10 and is on a first-pay, first-serve basis, with no reservations.

The technical meeting and deadline for rosters, waiver forms, and entrance fees is on Sept. 14 at 5pm, also at the Ada gym.

The format and rules for the tournament are as follows: It's

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LEIGH GASES

The Northern Marianas Basketball Federation is calling interested business and government entities to their 2023 NMIBF Inter- Government/Business Basketball League meeting today, Tuesday, at 5pm in the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.